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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 9 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 August 1993 from Mr. Kim Yong Nam, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 115 of the provisional agenda. 1/

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

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* A/48/150.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 2 August 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General

I write this letter to you with respect to the issue of the "comfort girls for the Japanese army", a subject of serious discussion recently in the north and south of Korea, the Philippines and other victimized Asian countries, and at the meetings of the human rights-related organs of the United Nations.

Official materials were discovered on 10 January last year, substantiating the fact that the Government and wartime military establishment of Japan are the main culprits responsible for the crimes of the "comfort girls" committed before and during the Second World War.

This has prompted redoubled efforts on the part of the Governments, human rights organizations, lawyers and scholars in those victimized Asian countries to investigate in detail the criminal case of the "comfort girls", and this issue is now extensively discussed in the United Nations human rights forums as a criminal case of grave human rights violation.

Our country is the greatest victim of the criminal case of the "comfort girls".

Therefore, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea decided in May last year to establish the Fact-finding Committee on the Damage by the Japanese Imperialists during their Occupation of Korea as a permanent organization composed of the Government officials concerned, authoritative historians and lawyers and other individuals, as part of its efforts to launch a thorough investigation into the truth of the criminal case of the "comfort girls" and the damage in our country, and to resolve correctly the problems of the rehabilitation of and compensation to the victims, in accordance with relevant international law and international morality.

The crimes of the "comfort girls" are the most sordid and atrocious crimes, unprecedented both in modern history and the history of wars, whereby before and during the Second World War the Japanese Government, together with the wartime military establishment, instituted "comfort houses" within the army and forcibly drafted as many as 200,000 women, mainly from Korea and other Asian countries, including China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Taiwan to let the Japanese soldiers commit authorized acts of collective outrage and gang-rape on these women and massacre most of them en masse at the end of the war for the reason of "secrecy".

In particular, in view of the historical facts of our country, which was once in a state of slavery under the illegal occupational rule of the Japanese imperialists, this criminal case serves as clear evidence of the enslavement of the women of other countries and nations by the Government and military establishment of Japan.

It is believed that the gravity of the criminal case of the "comfort girls", a grave human rights violation within the purview of "crimes against humanity" in terms of international law, is that a powerful nation wielded force of arms and State authority to violate cruelly the dignity and honour of other weak countries and nations and the freedom, chastity and lives of the women of those countries, and thus did serious violence to justice and the morality of the international community and outrageously breached international law.

Any attempt to abandon, unfinished, the search for the truth behind such a grave criminal case because of the lapse of time, or to undervalue these crimes by a simple disposal, would have the serious consequence of the return to justice and morality in the international community being prevented by force.

Therefore, we consider that full-scale clarification of this criminal case and a correct solution of the problem of compensation for the damage constitute part of the work of finalizing post-Second-World-War settlements and an important undertaking to awaken the international community and encourage it to prevent any possible recurrence of such crimes and to improve respect for inalienable human rights.

However, to our regret, the Japanese Government has concealed the facts so far and, even after the revelation of these crimes in January last year, intentionally refused to commit itself to probe into the truth, while trying by all means to shirk its international legal responsibility under the excuse that "although the Government and the military of Japan were involved in the management and running of the 'comfort houses', no materials have been discovered to prove coerciveness in drafting the women".

In this regard, I hope that the United Nations will actively engage itself in and make a constructive contribution to clarifying the truth of the criminal case of the "comfort girls" for the resolution of the question of compensation for the damages, in conformity with all the relevant international laws and international morality. Doing so will live up to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, aimed at maintaining international peace and security and strengthening the order of the international community, on the basis of democracy and justice.

I am pleased to invite your attention to the enclosed Interim Fact-finding Report on the Crimes Committed against the "Comfort Girls", prepared by the Fact-finding Committee on the Damage by the Japanese Imperialists during their Occupation of Korea (see appendix), with a view to helping facilitate the implementation of the resolution adopted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights, at its session held at Geneva in August last year, by which the Secretary-General of the United Nations was requested to provide the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Theo van Boven, with all the assistance he might require, and I should like to request you to distribute this letter and the above-mentioned report as an official document of the United Nations.

KIM Yong Nam
Vice-Premier and Minister for
Foreign Affairs
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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Appendix*

INTERIM FINDINGS ON THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY JAPANESE IMPERIALISTS: "COMFORT WOMEN FOR THE ARMY"

ON PUBLISHING INTERIM FINDINGS ON THE CRIMES AGAINST THE "COMFORT WOMEN FOR THE ARMY"

In the past most of the Asian countries were victims of the Japanese armed invasion and militarism. A great deal of damage was done to manpower and materials and moral civilization in the course of this.

Korea suffered most from the unlawful occupation and rule by Japan for 41 years from November 1905 to August 1945. During this period 6 million Koreans were drafted in the name of commandeering, conscription and "Volunteer Corps," about 200,000 women were drafted as the "comfort women for the army," and one million died.

The fact that Japan took away about 200, 000 women from Korea to make them their sex slaves in the name of "comforting the army" by using the government and military authorities was something unprecedented either in modern history or war history.

The gravity of such a crime lies in the fact that a big power by means of armed forces and government authorities, impaired the dignity and honour of a small country and violated the freedom, chastity and lives of women. This meant the wanton violation of the justice and morality of international community and law.

The issue of "comfort women for the army" is a bilateral one to be resolved between the victims and Japan and at the same time, has now developed into the issue of human rights on international community which is related to the moral civilization of humanity.

If this serious matter is left intact or handled with evasive manner on the ground that many years have passed, there

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* Circulated in the original language of submission only.

will be a grave consequence that may destroy the justice and morality of international community by strength.

So making exhaustive investigations into this criminal case and resolving the issue of compensation for the damage properly is very important to maintain the international order based on mutual respect, equality, justice and democracy, and prevent the recurrence of the crime.

The Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the Investigation of Damage Caused by Japanese Imperialists During Their Occupation of Korea has carried out investigation into the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists with regard to the "comfort women for the army" and publishes interim findings from a desire to resolve the matter of compensation for the damage in accordance with the international law and morality now that the truth of the case has been cleared up.

The Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the Investigation of Damage Caused by Japanese Imperialists During Their Occupation of Korea

Pyongyang, August 1993

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I. INVESTIGATION INTO THE "COMFORT WOMEN FOR THE ARMY" CASE

The "Comfort Women for the Army" case means the human rights violation by the government and military authorities of Japan, in which for the execution of war they established the "comfort houses" in the army, drafted women mainly from Korea as well as from the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Netherlands, 200,000 all told, for sexual services to the Japanese officers and soldiers, and killed most of them before and mainly during the 15-year war period (1931-1945).

1. Origination of the "Comfort Women for the Army" Issue

The issue of "comfort women" is to investigate the criminal case and compensate the damage caused by it. This case has been buried in oblivion until recent years because the Japanese Government obliterated many of proofs, and established a rigid censorship after the war, or because the survived victims were too shy to talk about their past when they were ruined for life as women.

On January 10, 1992, some official documents concerning "comfort women" were discovered in the archives of the Japanese "Defence Agency."

It was confirmed by these documents that the main culprit of the criminal case was none other than the Japanese government and military authorities.

So the issue of "comfort women" was raised as a pending issue between Japan and the countries concerned at present and submitted to the U.N. as the issue of war-time human rights violation.

The Japanese Government alleged that the "matter had been organized by civilian businessmen" when this issue was first raised.

Although the "comfort women" case took place 50 years ago, it is not the matter of past, but the matter of today, because its evidence and the main culprit have been confirmed recently.

The "comfort women" issue was not handled by the international military tribunal established after the 2nd World War and by any other international organs, though it was one of the greatest criminal actions against humanity.

And the matter has not been taken up at inter-government negotiations between Japan and the victim-countries.

It is a crucial matter to examine "comfort women" case and resolve the issue of compensation for the damage. After all it is related to the settlement of the post Second World War issues. At the same time, it is the common task facing the international community to establish the justice and morality of international society.

2. Investigation by the DPRK Government

In January 1991 when the 1st round of Korea-Japan inter-governmental talks opened in Pyongyang, the DPRK side presented the issue of "comfort women for the army" as part of the issues of compensation including 1 million loss of lives and forcible recruitment of 6 million people, and asked the Japanese side to adopt measures for compensation.

The Japanese side, however, tried to dodge responsibility for the compensation for the loss of lives, alleging that everything was done according to the laws in those days, while evading his remarks on Japan's crimes.

At the Korea-Japan inter-governmental talks which was held after the discovery of official documents confirming that the main culprits of the "comfort women" case

were not the civilian businessmen but the Japanese government and military authorities, the Japanese Government maintains that they are ready to discuss the issue of "comfort women in the framework of property claims, however those who claim compensation should be responsible for furnishing evidence for the fact."

Now that the Japanese Government adopted negative attitude towards compensation instead of making sincere apology, the DPRK Government has found itself under the imperative necessity of making full investigation into all the damages such as the loss of manpower and materials as well as moral and cultural damages including "comfort women" case which had been committed during the Japanese occupation of Korea for 41 years.

In May last year the 7th round of Korea-Japan inter-governmental talks were held. Around this time new materials proving the illegality of the past "treaties" were discovered, showing that all the crimes such as the forcible drafting of 6 million Koreans, 200,000 Korean "comfort women" and one million loss of lives had been closely related with the illegality of the past "treaties."

On the basis of these materials, the DPRK Government decided to set up the "Fact-Finding Committee on the Damage Caused by the Japanese Imperialists During Their Occupation of Korea" (hereinafter referred to as the "Fact-Finding Committee on the Damage") which consisted of government officials from the ministries and commissions concerned of our country, officials from local administrative organs at various levels and scholars on history and international judicial, experts on human rights and lawyers.

The Fact-Finding Committee on the Damage is a fully independent and permanent organ whose main mission is to present recommendations and opinions to the DPRK Government and Supreme People's Assembly after the full exchange of opinions and much consultation with government officials concerned, civilian organizations, scholars, lawyers from other countries and international organizations disregarding political relations, and on the basis of full-scale explication of the illegality of

Japanese colonial rule in Korea for 41 years with a view to resolving the issue of reparation and compensation in accordance with international law.

Since its organization in May 24 last year up to June 30 this year, 131 women have been identified as "comfort women." Out of them 34 women agreed to take the witness stand.

As far as the remaining 97 women are concerned, some do not want to present themselves at the open testimony and some others, due to objection from their families and relatives.

In deference to their wishes the Fact-Finding Committee on the Damage has decided not to make public their privacy.

In preparing this Interim Findings on the crimes, the Committee has based itself upon the testimonies of 131 victims and official documents and information obtained at home and abroad.

II. TRUTH OF THE CASE OF "COMFORT WOMEN FOR THE ARMY"

It is very important to correctly understand the term of the "comfort women for the army" before referring to the truth of this case.

"KOJIEN", an authoritative Japanese language dictionary, defines that "'comfort woman' means a woman who gave comfort to the officers and soldiers in the battlefields accompanying the units."

There were "comfort women" who served the old Japanese army during the Sino-Japanese War in 1894 and the Russo-Japanese War in 1904.

It is a well-known fact that there were "prostitute quarters" near the areas throughout the world where troops were stationing.

But the "comfort women for the army" are different from the former case, because the victims suffered the organized rape and gang-rape under the sex slavery system introduced by the Japanese government and military authorities.

The "comfort women for the army," therefore, as a Japanese terminology, may be defined as the "women subjected to the organized gang-rape system of the Japanese army operated in accordance with the policy of the government and the military authorities of Japan for their execution of war before and mainly during the 15-year war period (1931-1945)."

1. Motive and Objectives of "Comfort Women for the Army" Case

- Criminal Motive

o It is said that the "comfort women" system came into being after the "dispatch of Japanese troops to Siberia (from August 1918 to October 1922.)"

When the Russian "October Revolution" emerged victorious in November 1917, Japan dispatched a force 73,000 strong which consisted of six divisions, the headquarters, a MP corps, a provisional telegraph corps, a railway regiment and a quartermaster corps, with a view to seize Siberia.

In those days commercialized prostitution was allowed in the Japanese army. But soldiers were unable to approach prostitutes because they worked at low salary under the conscription system.

Dissatisfied Japanese troops started raping Russian women in their posts and battlefields. The result was that the venereal disease spread and this decreased considerably combat capabilities.

At that time those who were killed in battle numbered 1,387. The number of those who were wounded reached 2,066 and that of those who were attached by diseases was 941. The number of those who quitted the battlefields because of venereal

disease were 2,012, the figure larger than the war dead and equal to the wounded.

o On January 28, 1932, the next year after the "September 18 Incident" in 1931 the Japanese army fabricated the "1st Shanghai Incident" in order to divert the attention of big powers from Manchuria.

In those days the Japanese soldiers raped numerous local women. In such a situation a lieutenant general Okamura, the then chief of staff of the expeditionary army had to ask the governor of Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan, to send comfort women for the army.

The letter of request reads:

"...To my shame, I was the initiator of the comfort women scheme. At the time of the Shanghai Incident, there were two or three rape cases, so I invited comfort women from the Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture following the example of a navy unit nearby. Afterwards, no rape incident was reported. Now a comfort women corps is functioning in each unit."

o The Japanese army launched a full-scale war against China after having invented the "Lugouchiao Incident" on July 7, 1937 and played a major role in starting the "Nanjing Massacre Incident" in December of the same year.

The incident was accompanied by large-scale plunder and rape, causing considerable damage to China. In the meantime, venereal disease caused by rape had a demoralizing influence on the minds of the Japanese army.

The Japanese army became more ferocious in the war and conducted murder, plunder, rape and wrecking activities randomly. In order to cope with this disorder, it was necessary to develop an idea. Thus came an idea of "distributing comfort women to the soldiers."

- *Objectives*

According to materials discovered so far, the objectives the Japanese government and military authorities set forth in introducing the "comfort women" system are:

Firstly, to raise the morale of the Japanese officers and soldiers;

Secondly, to prevent rape by Japanese officers and soldiers in their occupied areas and the spread of venereal disease;

Thirdly, to prevent violence and plunder against the local people and maintain public peace and order in their occupied areas.

2. The Period of Introduction of the "Comfort Women" System

On July 6, 1992, Kato Koichi, Chief Cabinet Secretary, announced in a press conference the results of interim investigation concerning the "comfort women" issue, in which he mentioned about the data of 1936 alone in connection with the time of introduction of the "comfort women for the army" system.

But, the official documents discovered in the Japanese state archives by the "Fact-Finding Group for the Forcible Drafting of Koreans" which was organized by Japanese lawyers, scholars and officials of **Chongryon** (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) the "comfort women" system was already in force in 1933.

Ri Kyong Saeng (75), in Wonchon-ri, Taedong County, South Phyongan Province, was the first to take the witness stand on May 3, 1992, as a victim. *She testified to the fact that she was forced to serve as a "comfort girl" in 1929 at the age of 12 at a munitions factory located in Changwon County, South Kyongsang Province under the surveillance of the Japanese army after having been drafted.*

Her testimony revealed that the "comfort house" had been established in the army in 1929 or before and the "comfort houses" system was introduced even in the munitions factories operated by the Japanese army.

3. Sources and Methods of Recruitment

- Nationality

According to the official documents discovered so far and the testimonies by the former doctors of the Japanese army, those who served in the Japanese army and the survivors of the former "comfort women", most of the "comfort women" were Koreans.

A ten-day report on sanitary conditions, (from September 1932 to December 1933), an official document drawn up in connection with the operation of the "comfort houses" by the Japanese 14th Brigade Headquarters revealed that "35 Koreans out of 38 comfort women...." This document was discovered in the Japanese state archives in December last year.

According to Chapter II titled "Prostitute," a report on the method of how to "prevent the venereal disease" which was written by Aso Tetzuo who served as an army doctor in China at the hospital of the 11th Army Corps from 1937 to the day of Japan's defeat, the "number of Korean prostitutes was 80 and that of Japanese was 20."

In August last year, Ichikawa Isirosi, (72 years old) the former Japanese army officer of the military police disclosed in a forum held in Tokyo that he served as an inspector at the "comfort house" in Manchukuo then under the occupation by the Japanese army for one and half years and confessed that "comfort women" were mostly Koreans.

The survived victims of the former "comfort women" now living in our country testified that there were only Korean women in the "comfort houses" where they had served.

During the period of the Pacific War the government and military authorities of Japan also took away some local women in other Asian countries under their occupation. The victims disclosed until now were of the nationality of the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Netherlands.

It is true that there were some Japanese women. In the case of Japanese women their age was older than that of Koreans and there was no Japanese woman who testified that she was a former "comfort woman." These facts suggest that the Japanese women practiced prostitution voluntarily for money-making.

- *Age*

At the time when they were drafted, the age of 131 former "comfort women" now living in our country were:

Age	From	To	Number	*
	12	15	18	unmarried
	16	19	63	unmarried
	20	24	30	1 married
	25	29	6	1 unmarried
	Over	30	2	married

* The remaining 12 could not be confirmed because they died or lost memory and for other reasons.

These statistical data show that the government and military authorities of Japan drafted those women as young as possible and even young married women.

* The average age of Japanese "comfort women" was 10 years older than that of Koreans.

- Method of Recruitment

The official document "on recruiting employees for the Army's comfort houses" which was discovered in the archives of the Japanese Defence Agency by Yoshimi Yoshiaki, professor of Chuo University in Japan was a "notification" from the Ministry of Japanese army to the Japanese units stationed in China in 1938. It carried the signature of each department chief and was finally approved by Umez, the then Vice-Minister of the Army (later promoted to the General Chief of Staff).

The "notification" pointed out that the recruitment of "comfort women" was being carried out in a disorderly way under the pretext that it was ratified by the army, and that those responsible for recruiting were impairing the prestige of the army by applying the abduction method, and carried the order that the civilian businessmen should be selected carefully and that the expeditionary force should play a major role, while cooperating closely with the local MPs and police.

This shows one aspect of the recruitment of "comfort women" and proves that the recruitment by civilian businessmen was carried out under the control of the military authorities.

At the end of war all the government and military organs such as civilian businessmen who were under the control of and financed by the government and military authorities of Japan, military police, police, the consulate and local administration were set in motion.

The recruitment of "comfort women" was carried out in the following **four methods.**

Firstly, to lure women into the "comfort houses," giving a promise that they would be provided with good jobs;

Secondly, to kidnap women in their residential quarters or in their journey;

Thirdly, to recruit women first in the name of "voluntary corps" and then forcibly make them "comfort women";

Fourthly, to transfer those women who failed to pay loans to the civilian businessmen. (In this case civilian businessmen were those who went on "comfort women" hunting ordered by the military authorities.)

Out of 131 victims in our country, the **second** form numbered 67, the **first** form being 44 and then followed by the **fourth** and **third** forms.

One of the most convincing testimonies up to now was provided by **Yoshida Seiji**, an official at the Yamaguchi Association for Labour to Protect the Country, who was mobilized in drafting Korean "comfort women" from 1942 to the day of Japan's defeat. He confessed that he had been provided with trucks and soldiers in Korea during the war from the Army Headquarters for women hunting.

4. Management and Operation of "Comfort Houses"

- Forms of Operation and Visitors to "Comfort Houses"

According to the testimonies made by 131 former "comfort women" in our country, there were "comfort houses" managed directly by the army or by civilians. Medical check-up was done by army doctors.

They testified that all of them served for the soldiers only.

Judging from this fact, we may therefore reasonably conclude that there were two forms of "comfort houses", the one directly operated by the army and the other operated by civilian businessmen formerly, but it was actually under the control of the army.

The former form, that is, under the management by civilian businessmen was aimed at preventing the "prestige of army" from being impaired. This form was adopted in the units in towns and residential areas.

At that time the "comfort houses" were run under such names as the "Soldiers' Club", "Soldiers' Hall" and "Army Amusement Centre." Those run by the civilian businessmen outwardly sometimes bore the local names.

- *Size and Location of "Comfort Houses"*

According to the testimonies made by the victims, the size of "comfort houses" was slightly different according to the units and areas. But it may be summarized as follows.

One "comfort house" could accommodate 20 to 30 visitors, and one woman was allotted to each room which was partitioned by straw mat or bag.

The space of each room was 2.5 square meters for two persons to lie down, and there were some simple furniture and bed clothes such as a dressing table, blankets and pillows.

With the war dragging on and the front line being moved from one place to another, private houses and stables were used for "comfort houses." In the closing years of war dugouts and trenches were sometimes used. Such "comfort houses" could be found everywhere where the Japanese troops were stationing.

According to the testimonies made by the victims in our country, the location of "comfort houses" was as follows.

Chonghak-ri, Kyonghung (Undok) County of the then North Hamgyong Province, Phabal-ri, Phungsan County of the then South Hamgyong Province; Changwon, South Kyongsang Province; Mokpho, South Jolla Province in our country; Harbin, Shanghai, Tianjin, Nanjing, Mudanjiang Province, Fengtien (Shenyang), Luoheishan in Heilongjiang Province, Xiaoxinganling Range, Jinzhou, Hulin,

Qiqihar, Shijiazhuang in China; the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan, Brunei, Burma and Japan.

- *Regulations With Regard to "Comfort Houses"*

All the "comfort houses" were subject to regulations enforced by the headquarters of each unit.

According to the photographs taken by Aso Tetsuo, a medical officer who was in charge of medical examination for "comfort women" at that time, the "regulations for the comfort house" was hung up at the entrance to a "comfort house" in the suburbs of Shanghai in February 1938, which reads:

"o *The comfort house admits soldiers and civilian employees of the army (odd-job men excluded) only and every visitor shall carry his leave permit.*

o *A visitor shall pay at the ticket office and have an admission ticket and condom.*

o *A ticket holder shall go to the designated room. 30 minutes allowed.*

o *The admission ticket shall be handed over to the ***waitress****.

o *After affair is over, leave the room immediately.*

o *Those who violate the regulations or military discipline and who corrupt public morals shall be ordered away from the house.*

o *Those who do not use condom shall be forbidden to contact.*

'Eastern Logistic Command' "

*(***waitress**** *refers to a comfort woman)*

There were other regulations to be observed by "comfort women" that "...The notion of co-ownership of *waitress* shall prevail and the monopoly notion shall be prohibited..." and "the *waitress* shall understand the feelings of the visitors, treat them equally and faithfully attend to her duty, giving no inconveniences to them." (Additional provisions of the "Regulations for Soldiers' Club" at Unit 3475 in 1944)

Time Limit

For	From	To	From	To
soldier	30 minutes	1 hour	09.00	12.00
non-commissioned officer	1 hour	one and half hrs.	13.00	19.00
officer	2 hrs.	4 hrs.	20.00	dawn next day

Charges

National	Charges (yen)
Chinese woman	1.0
Korean - " -	1.5
Japanese - " -	2.0

* For officers (warrant officers included) payment was doubled.

In addition to these, the regulations ruled: "Drinking is forbidden within the comfort house", "Payment and hour assignment shall never bear no delay", "Women are all affected by venereal disease, so a carefully thought out measure shall be adopted to prevent it", "No violence shall be committed towards business managers" and "The house is off limits to heavy drinkers."

In accordance with such regulations, soldiers from each unit came to the "comfort houses" in groups and waited for their turn every day.

Soldiers in turn went to the ticket office to pay charges and received admission tickets and condoms marked with "Charge 1."

* The condoms marked with "Charge 1" were war supplies produced by the Japanese "Kokusai Rubber" Company and supplied to the soldiers.

Then soldiers went to the designated rooms and handed over "admission tickets" to the "comfort women." After showing condoms to the women, they entered into bodily intercourse with them.

As mentioned above, the Japanese military authorities committed group violation and gang-rape under such regulations and forced innocent women to serve as sex slaves. Even such enforcement regulations were ignored as the war was expanded. In this way savage methods were applied in the "comfort houses."

- *Medical Checkup*

According to the official document and testimonies made by the victims, medical checkup was strict.

The medical checkup was a little different from each unit, but mostly once a week or 10 days.

Checkup was done by army doctors simply to confirm the presence of V.D.

Because the Japanese army was afraid of V.D. being spread, rigid control was exercised over the use of condoms. If any soldier would violate regulations, this fact was reported to the managers through "comfort women".

In some places where condoms were in short supply, old condoms were used by cleaning. The "comfort women" had to undertake their cleaning. An injection known as 606 was applied to persons venereally infected.

When "comfort women" were cured of disease, they had to serve again. If not recovered, they were taken away to the unknown places by the soldiers at night. Nobody knew about their whereabouts.

- ***Life in the "Comfort Houses"***

According to the testimonies made by the victims in our country, girls had to serve first the officers for several days and then the soldiers. It was an established rule.

Beautiful women were monopolized by the officers. These women had fewer visitors and comparably freer than others.

Violence was used towards those women who rejected sexual service. When resistance continued, all "comfort women" were ordered to gather together. Then a most strong protester was picked up to cut off her neck with a sword and open fire at her sexual organ in the eyes of the crowds. In this way, "comfort women" were compelled to obey for fear of punishment.

93 among 131 victims in our country witnessed such acts and most of them have on their bodies scars received in those days.

Upon arrival in the "comfort houses," "comfort women" were called by the Japanese names or by their room numbers. Within the "comfort houses," no free exchange of words was allowed and they were prohibited from speaking Korean language.

Except for the time to take meal and go to stool the "comfort women" were not allowed to come out of their rooms. In

short, they were under the 24-hour guard. In some places, meals were served in the rooms.

There was no fixed period of service for them. The period of service was ended when they succeeded in deserting the "comfort houses" or die.

They were barred from writing to their parents or relatives. Even they died, death notices were not issued.

"Comfort women" had to deal with 20-25 Japanese soldiers a day and 40 on Sundays.

When they became pregnant, caused by condom trouble, they were given injections for forcible abortion. Soon after this injection was given, the whole body was swollen out. In less than one week from abortion, they were forced to serve again. Such Japanese acts were committed under the "order of the Emperor."

Weak women got ill or died, because of continued service, violence and lack of nourishment. They were soon replaced by new ones. Some women committed suicide, unable to endure savage acts.

Even though they were subjected to maltreatment, they were not rewarded with a penny or MPC. Many women did not know that soldiers paid money to the management board for their enjoyment.

According to the testimonies made by the victims the "comfort women" gave the admission tickets to the managers every day. The quantity of meal was decided by these admission tickets. It was said that the managers promised the women that the earned money would be saved and paid back when returning home.

5. Treatment for "Comfort Women" At the End of War

Those who have miraculously survived to the present day were the women who were healthy at the time or blessed with a good luck.

The following is the analysis of the released women from the "comfort houses."

Defectors	24
Taken prisoners by the Allied Forces	19
Those deserted by the Japanese army	48
Those survived from the disorder in the war	27
Others	2

* Out of the two mentioned above, one was set free thanks to the efforts of her family who offered a bribe to the chief manager. The other escaped together with a Japanese soldier. The remaining 11 women could not be confirmed because some died or for some other reasons.

As is seen by these statistics, there was no one whom the Japanese army made her back to the home.

The survived victims testified that many "comfort women" were killed together with Japanese soldiers, hit by bullets fired by the troops of the Allied forces or massacred by the Japanese army.

There is no room for doubt that such a massacre was done to conceal the crimes committed against the "comfort women."

In this connection, we cannot but pay attention to the remarks in his election campaign on November 20, 1965 by Mr. Arahune, the then member of the House of Representatives, a senior member of the LDP who was once nominated for Vice-Presidency of the House of Representatives.

Here is a copy of his speech at a lecture.
One passage from the copy reads;

"... 142,000 Korean comfort women died. The Japanese soldiers killed them."

When a dangerous situation was created, some Japanese soldiers run away, abandoning "comfort women".

In such a situation, the young women, unfamiliar with the locality and language in an alien land, had to wander about jungles aimlessly.

Most of them are believed to have died while wandering jungles or by bombing. Some survivors were those who had a close call.

6. The Number of "Comfort Women"

No official data identifying the list and the total number of "comfort women" are still available.

But a conservative estimate puts the number of "comfort women" at some 200,000 and there is every ground to prove this estimation.

Firstly, according to the official confirmation the "comfort women" system was introduced from 1933 and lasted by 1945, that is, for 12 years.

Secondly, the Japanese army had a force 3 million strong at that time and most of the units were provided with "comfort women."

The Japanese words "Nikuichi" on the tongues of Japanese soldiers at the time may be interpreted into the meaning that "one comfort woman was allocated to every 29 Japanese soldiers."

From the above-mentioned figures, the number of victims may be calculated in the following way:

3,000,000 / 29 = 103,448.3

The woman who withstood the sexual service for 12 years is not yet confirmed. The vacancies caused by disease, death and defection were filled up by new ones constantly. Taking this fact into consideration, if calculated on a 1.5 or 2.0 fold basis, the total number will come to:

103,448.3 x 1.5 (2.0) = 155,172 or 206,896

This calculation is supported by the Document "Wartime Ten-Day Report" (April 11-20 in the 14th year of Showa) drawn up by the Headquarters of the 21st Japanese Army Corps. According to it, the units under this army corps had 1,000 "comfort girls."

This 21st Army Corps had 40,000 effectives. So the following figure is given: **40,000 / 1,000 = 40**

If this figure is applied to the total number of troop strength, the number will come to:

3,000,000 / 40 x 1.5 (2.0) = 112,500 or 150,000

This calculation is based on the average figure in the 14th year of Showa, that is, the year of 1939.

The years after 1941 witnessed the massive hunting of women. Considering this fact, it is quite reasonable that the total number of "comfort women" reached more than **200,000.**

The following figures indicate the years when 131 women were drafted.

1929 - 1940	43 women
1941 - 1945	73 women

* The remaining 15 are not yet confirmed.

It is very important to confirm the exact number of the "comfort women" in the settlement of the issue of "comfort women."

7. Living Conditions of the "Comfort Women" After the War

- Mental and Psychological Damage

The "comfort women" who survived and returned home after the war were vary small in number and they were not inclined to reveal their past life out of a sense of shame.

The survivors did not tell even their parents about this fact. Some parents who came to learn the disgraceful past of their daughters advised them to keep it secret, thinking of their future.

After the war their average age was from 18-22. They were still unmarried, so they were not, in a position to openly lodge complaints against Japan's crimes.

Lodging complaints meant that they would be deprived of the moral right to marry. From olden times, chastity has been considered for the Korean women to be their lifeblood and the disgrace caused therefrom has been regarded to be more dreadful than death.

That was why they were obliged to tell falsehood about their service in the "comfort houses," saying that they worked at mess-rooms, hospitals and laundries as cooks, nurses and washwomen for the Japanese army. Still others settled in other areas changing their names without returning to their home villages.

It has been confirmed that not a small number of women remain in an alien land or went to other countries. They are now living in China, Japan, Thailand and Hong Kong.

Almost all the victims discovered in the course of investigation are being tormented by such symptoms as human phobia, lack of self-confidence and melancholia.

From olden times, the Korean women have been refraining from smoking. This is an established sense of morality. But many of these victims still cannot bear to be without smoking. They say smoking is the way to relieve their mental suffering.

An absolute majority of the survivors of the former "comfort women for the army" refused to get married. Many women who married had to have their marriage annulled because their past life caused trouble.

Only six women were married to unmarried persons. Most of them entered into matrimony with those men with children.

Most of the married were unable to give birth to babies. They are now living with the help of the children of the first wives or the adopted children.

When they were advised during an interview, to forget their past for the sake of their health since many years passed, they were unanimous in saying their could do so of their past memories were simply physical suffering, but their dignity and girlhood were so ruthlessly violated that they could never forget the mental agony of those days.

- Physical Damage

The survivors of the former "comfort women" now living in our country are still experiencing intolerable physical pain due to the aftereffects of maltreatment received at the "comfort houses" during the war.

The medical check-up conducted on 34 victims in Pyongyang and in each province, city and county proved that 13 of them underwent an operation for hysterectomy at the age of 30 to 40, 18 were suffering from leucorrhea, 22 from heart neuralgia, 3 from oral and auditory disorder and 26 has scars.

The others had heartburn, heart disease, hypertension and neuralgia. There was no one without disease.

One woman had detestable tattoos in her lips, around her private part and on the body, for the shame of which she could not go bathing and swimming with her friends.

Thirty-four women out of them proved to be far worse in health than those of the same age.

Twenty-seven women were disabled earlier than others and retired from public service before the age of 55, when the women were to be given the right to get pensions out of state funds.

So far no information has been available to prove that 131 former "comfort women" received money or goods in reward for their sexual services.

Their physical suffering still persists in and no medicine is believed to be curative of their disease caused by mental agony.

III. OUR VIEW ON "COMFORT WOMEN" CASE AND DEMAND

1. The Purpose of the "Comfort Women" Case Was in Pursuance of the Policy of Eliminating the Korean Nation

The Japanese Government claimed that the introduction of a "comfort women" system was aimed at "preventing rape and venereal disease" and "maintaining public peace." This advocacy was to cover the true objective.

On the basis of investigation conducted so far, the Fact-Finding Committee on Damage has reached conclusion that the "comfort women" case was part of an eliminate-the-Korean-nation policy actively pursued by the Japanese government and the military authorities as advantage was taken of Japan's invasion of Manchuria, the Sino-Japanese War and the Pacific War.

This can be explained by the following facts:

Firstly, almost all "comfort women" were composed of young Korean women.

If Korea and Japan became an internationally ratified "single state" through "annexation" and the two nations of Korea and Japan were on an equal status legally, as insisted by the Japanese government delegation to DPRK-Japan talks, an absolute majority of "comfort women for the army" should have been composed of by Japanese women. (Of course, if the Japanese women were used as sexual slaves, it should also be considered to be a punishable crime.)

At the time, Korea had a population of 20-30 million, whereas Japan contained 50-70 million population.

There was no persuasion in the logic that the Korean women under Japan's occupation who had a strong hatred for Japan unlike the Japanese counterparts, should "comfort" the Japanese army sexually.

But the main source of the "comfort women for the army" was the Korean women.

The reason is not far to seek.

When drafting the Korean women as "comfort women", the Japanese government and military authorities formed a scheme to kill them after using them.

This is proved by the materials concerning the management and operation to the "comfort houses" and by the testimonies by the victims.

There were no laws and regulations for the protection of the lives and health of "comfort girls" and their generative functions. They were treated like articles.

There is ample evidence to show that the Japanese soldiers committed violence and murder freely against "comfort women" but

no material showing that such crimes were dealt with at the Japanese military tribunal.

Because Japan intended to obliterate the Korean nation, terminating the existence and generative functions of a large number of young Korean women amounting to 200,000 was not contradictory to Japanese law and this accorded with Japan's eliminate-the-Korean-nation policy.

This policy ended with the defeat of Japan in the war in August, 1945.

If the war dragged on for more 10 years, it should be perfectly clear that most of the young Korean women would be taken to the "comfort houses" and the future of the Korean nation would be endangered.

Secondly, the system of the "comfort houses" was "necessary" only for the Japanese army.

The Japanese Government explains that the "comfort houses" were established to prevent raping and the spread of V.D. and maintain public order in the occupied territories by Japanese troops.

World history of wars until then had recorded a number of rape cases by individual foreign servicemen in the occupied areas.

When such cases took place, the military authorities usually punished severely those criminals by martial law to maintain the honour, discipline and public order within the army.

Instead of punishing the criminals by martial law the Japanese military authorities established the "comfort houses" legally by forcibly drafting the innocent women.

This step is considered to be tantamount to giving robbed things to some one and asking him not to commit robbery outside the house, instead of punishing him.

We ask Japan: Is in a Japanese mode of thinking that public order is maintained by means of giving the robbed things to the thieves and offering the drafted women to those who violate them ?

The Japanese government's allegation concerning the "prevention of rape and V.D." and "maintenance of public order" does not stand to reason. This is nothing but a pretext.

From this we consider that the Japanese Government introduced a "comfort women" system to promote its policy to obliterate the Korean nation by using the war as a pretext.

The active promotion of this policy--this was the hidden aim of the "comfort women" case.

2. Historical Background of the "Comfort Women" Case

At the time when this "comfort women" system was in force, our people were virtually slaves who were deprived of all political rights and the means of production due to the plunder and the repressive rule by the Japanese imperialists.

In all schools in Korea, the pupils and students were forbidden to speak Korean language and Koreans were forced to "change their names into Japanese ones." At the same time, they were forced to worship the Japanese Emperor and visit the "Shinto Shrine."

The 6 million Korean young people were drafted under various names such as commandeering, conscription and "Volunteers Corps" and sent to coal and ore mines and construction sites in Korea and Japan and forced to work as slaves. They became expendable in the war fought in their interests of the Japanese imperialists and many of them disabled.

More than 1 million Koreans were sacrificed during the period when Korea was under the occupation of the Japanese imperialists.

The "comfort women" case came into being against such a historical background.

The Japanese government and military authorities drafted 200,000 Korean women to make them serve to the Japanese army as sexual slaves. But this did not provoke social criticism.

This was because our country was under occupation of Japanese troops.

Japan fabricated illegal treaties on the basis of the occupation of Korea and the reduction of our people to the status of slavery. In this way she announced that the annexation of Korea to Japan was internationally ratified.

But Korea was not "annexed" to Japan. Koreans and Japanese were not on an equal footing. The Japanese army was an occupation army which invaded other country and Koreans were in a status of slavery.

This is confirmed by the "Cairo Declaration" dated November 27, 1943 which stated that "Paying attention to the Korean people kept in bondage, Korea shall be free and independent soon."

The "comfort women" case was one of the crimes committed by the Japanese Government and military authorities which illegally occupied our country and enslaved our people for 41 years with the help of the strong armed forces.

3. International Legal Responsibility the Japanese Government Should Assume

- The "Comfort Women" Case is the "Crimes Against Humanity."

The "comfort women" case is the "crimes against humanity" which violate Paragraph C of Article 6 stipulated in the law of the Nurnberg International Military Court for the trial of the German war criminals and Article 5 stipulated in the law of the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal for the Far East established after the Second World War for the trial of the Japanese war criminals.

It is stipulated in the laws that the "crimes against humanity, as murder, annihilation, slavery, forced emigration, displacement committed against all civilians and other inhuman acts before or during war, or persecution committed on political, racial and religious reasons as the crimes to be dealt under the jurisdiction of this court, whether or not they violate the local laws of the country where the crimes had been committed."

Such rules were approved by the UN General Assembly in a resolution adopted on December 11, 1946, which clarified the principles of international law.

In the light of international law, the "comfort women" case was the "crimes against humanity" as inhuman acts which enslaved the innocent women of the other country and killed most of them.

Those war criminals in Germany and other countries who violated international laws were punished and the governments concerned gave compensations to the victims or their bereaved families after the war.

But, in spite of the fact that Japan committed crimes against "comfort women" violating human rights applicable to the international law "crime against humanity", those responsible

for such crimes have not yet been punished and the Japanese Government did not give any compensation to the victims.

- ***The "Comfort Women" Case Is a Gross Violation of Human Rights, a Crime Still Not Canceled by International Law.***

It is known to all that the prescription on war crimes and the "crimes against humanity" is positive in terms of international law.

On November 26, 1968 the UN General Assembly adopted by 58 ayes and 7 noes the convention not to apply the prescription on the war crimes and the "crime against humanity."

The Nazi war criminals were punished by the Nurnberg International Military Court established after the 2nd World War.

But Germany (then West Germany) enacted local laws to punish the Nazi war criminals. In a situation in which many other war criminals were not arrested, it revised the law whose prescription was to be expired on December 31, 1969 to cancel the term of prescription.

But the Japanese Government has tried to cover its crimes for nearly half a century. Now that such crimes have been exposed to the world, it tries to avoid the responsibility for compensation, saying that the "government and military authorities were involved in the management and operation of the system of comfort women, but there is no evidence to show that women were forcibly drafted."

4. Fair Solution for the "Comfort Women" Issue

The introduction, management and operation of the "comfort women" system is the greatest crimes against humanity which resulted in destroying human dignity and moral civilization and which achieved ultimate in discrimination against women and

other nation. So, the "comfort women" issue can never be settled simply by offering money.

We hold that this issue should be resolved in accordance with the following principles.

- ***Overall Investigation into the Crimes and Opening the Results to the Public***

The Japanese Government must examine the following matters and officially express that it recognizes the fact.

. Forcible drafting

. Main culprits for the "comfort women" case

. The matter concerning other victims and their whereabouts except the confirmed survivors

. Inhuman treatment of "comfort women"

. Violation of international law resulting from the "crimes against humanity"

- ***Punishment of Main Culprits***

The Japanese Government should enact its local law and punish those responsible for the "comfort women" case, and thus express its heartfelt soul-searching to the victims.

Punishment should have for its purpose to restore the damaged international morality and prevent the recurrence of such crimes, not to revenge the Japanese criminals.

A certain period should be set to enable the criminals to confess their crimes. For those who do not surrender themselves to justice, should be ferret out, committed for trial and dealt with in accordance with the decision of the court.

Even for those who were dead, verdicts should be pronounced on them as long as their crimes are confirmed, and this fact should be recorded.

For those who have repented of their past crimes and confessed their crimes, they should not be committed for trial, but be forgiven his offenses.

- *Expression of Formal Apology*

The Japanese Government must express its heartfelt soul-searching to the victim countries, individual victims and the international community.

. Adoption of the resolution at the Parliament

. Expression of apology at the UN General Assembly

. Official expression at inter-government talks

. Erection of a memorial tower

. Giving an account of the crimes to the history textbooks

- *Sincere Compensation*

The "comfort women" case is not a material damage, so it is impossible even by a fabulous amount of money or gold to restore the wounds of victims to the original state.

It is therefore difficult to ask for compensation able to restore the "comfort women" to the status quo.

However, in order to restore the honour of our victims and the damaged international justice, opportunities should be given to the Japanese Government to atone for the wrong it had done and compensate it materially.

Demanding a certain amount of financial compensation means giving an opportunity to the Japanese Government to repent of its past crimes.

- *International Settlement Through the United Nations*

The present attitude adopted by the Japanese Government reveals that it does not recognize its crimes, for example, the forcible drafting of Korean women, and deliberately avoids the overall investigation into the case in point.

Instead of adopting measures for compensation to the survivors at the earliest possible date, the Japanese Government is attempting to resolve the problem by what is called the "humanitarian fund."

This is an act of mockery of our nation and victims, as well as of international justice and conscience.

If the Japanese Government persists in adopting such attitude, it is necessary to establish an international tribunal through the United Nations to resolve this problem.

APPENDIX

MATERIALS

1. List of Victims, Former "Comfort Women For the Army", Who Bore the Public Testimonies (up to June 30, 1993)

1. Ri Kyong Saeng

Age: 76 (Born on August 29, 1917)
Birth place: Orang county, North Hamgyong Province
Present address: Wonchon-ri, Taedong county,
South Phyongan Province
Taken to: A munitions factory in Changwon county,
South Kyongsang Province
Taken in: 1929

2. Kim Tae Il

Age: 76 (Born on October 15, 1916)
Birth place: Sariwon city, North Hwanghae Province
Present address: Haephyong-ri, Kaephung county, Kaesong
Taken to: 12th division of Japanese Army then stationed in
Tokyo, Xinjing (Changchun), Shanghai, Nanjing
and Harbin of China and Singapore
Taken in: 1934

3. Yun Kyong Ae

Age: 73 (Born on August 20, 1920)
Birth place: Sanghae-ri, Samgang-myon, Jaeryong county,
South Hwanghae Province
Present address: Kuryon-ri, Unpha county,
North Hwanghae Province
Taken to: Singapore
Taken in: July 1941

4. **Ri Pok Nyo**

Age: 74 (Born in 1919)
Birth place: Suwon county, Kyonggi Province
Present address: Kukdong Workers' district,
Hwasong county, North Hamgyong Province
Taken to: The then Northern Manchuria
Taken in: 1942

5. **Kang Kil Sun**

Age: 84 (Born in 1909)
Birth place: Sosung-ri, Paekgun-myon,
Kimje county, South Jolla Province
Present address: Soa-ri, Yonan county,
South Hwanghae Province
Taken to: Taiwan and Brunei
Taken in: August 1937

6. **Jong Ok Sun**

Age: 73 (Born in 1920)
Birth place: Phabal-ri, Phungsan county,
South Hamgyong Province
Present address: Sayon-ri, Kangryong county,
South Hwanghae Province
Taken to: Phungsan county, South Hamgyong Province
Taken in: 1934

7. **Pak Pok I**

Age: 67 (Born on June 20, 1926)
Birth place: Jinju, South Kyongsang Province
Present address: Honam-ri, Simpho city,
South Hamgyong Province
Taken to: Taiwan
Taken in: May 1943

8. **Ri Hyon Suk**

Age: 70 (Born on November 5, 1922)
Birth place: Tongdaemun-gu, Seoul
Present address: Migok-ri, Sariwon city,
North Hwanghae Province
Taken to: Shanghai and Singapore
Taken in: Autumn 1940

9. **Ro Hyon Hwa**

Age: 70 (Born on October 25, 1922)
Birth place: Jisa-ri, Ryonggang county,
South Phyongan Province
Present address: Aewon-ri, Ryonggang county, Nampho city
Taken to: Mudanjiang, China
Taken in: October 1940

10. **Kim Kun Suk**

Age: 70 (Born on August 25, 1923)
Birth place: Hadan-ri, Wihwa-myon, Uiju county,
North Phyongan Province
Present address: Taephyong-ri, Phihyon county,
North Phyongan Province
Taken to: Fengtian (now Shenyang), China
Taken in: 1938

11. **Kim Yong Sil**

Age: 68 (Born on October 21, 1924)
Birth place: Pochon county, Ryanggang Province
Present address: Sinjang-ri, Hyesan city,
Ryanggang Province
Taken to: Chonghak-ri, Kyonghung county,
North Hamgyong Province
Taken in: 1942

12. **Jang Su Wol**

Age: 69 (Born on March 20, 1924)
Birth place: Ripsok-ri, Anju county,
South Phyongan Province
Present address: Chilgol-3-dong,
Mangyongdae district, Pyongyang
Taken to: Qiqihar, China
Taken in: September 1941

13. **Jong Song Myong**

Age: 69 (Born on August 10, 1924)
Birth place: Myongsok-dong, Wonsan city,
Kangwon Province
Present address: Pongsu-dong, Wonsan city,
Kwangwon Province
Taken to: Burma
Taken in: August 1943

14. **Kang Yong Suk**

Age: 72 (Born on January 30, 1921)
Birth place: Samdo-myon, Raju county,
South Jolla Province
Present address: Wolhyon-ri, Unjon county,
North Phyongan Province
Taken to: Jinzhou, China
Taken in: 1942

15. **Pak Pok Sil**

Age: 71 (Born on April 15, 1922)
Birth place: Kyogu-dong, Nam district, Pyongyang
Present address: Unjon county township,
North Phyongan Province
Taken to: Hulin, Mudanjiang Province, China
Taken in: 1941

16. **Choe Sun Hwan**

Age: 71 (Born on September 5, 1921)
Birth place: Ronam-dong, Seoul
Present address: Miphyong-ri, Thongchon county,
Kangwon Province
Taken to: Laoheishan, Heilongjiang Province, China
Taken in: June 1942

17. **Sim Phyong Ok**

Age: 74 (Born in 1919)
Birth place: Chongjin city, North Hamgyong Province
Present address: Wonsan-ri, Hoeryong city,
North Hamgyong Province
Taken to: Soviet-Manchurian border area and Taiwan
Taken in: 1940

18. **Kim Jong Sim**

Age: 67 (Born in 1926)
Birth place: Songhwa-ri, Sukchon county,
South Phyongan Province
Present address: Yangsa-dong, Haeju city,
South Hwanghae Province
Taken to: the Philippines
Taken in: 1943

19. **Ri Kye Wol**

Age: 71 (Born in 1922)
Birth place: Haeju city, South Hwanghae Province
Present address: Jukchon-ri, Pyoksong county,
South Hwanghae Province
Taken to: Shanghai, China
Taken in: 1942

20. **Jong Un Bok**

Age: 68 (Born on July 15, 1925)
Birth place: Hupho-dong, Nampho city
Present address: Songdok-ri, Hwaphyong county,
Jagang Province
Taken to: Singapore
Taken in: 1941

21. **Ri Po Bu**

Age: 72 (Born on March 16, 1921)
Birth place: Ryulsan-ri, Anju-myon, Anju county,
South Phyongan Province
Present address: Ryongyon-dong, Anju city,
South Phyongan Province
Taken to: Proximity of Beijing, China
Taken in: 1937

22. **Ri Son Rim**

Age: 74 (Born on October 4, 1918)
Birth place: Poksu-ri, Phyongsan county,
North Hwanghae Province
Present address: Phangyo county township, Kangwon Province
Taken to: Harbin, China
Taken in: April 1942

23. **Kim Jong Hui**

Age: 73 (Born in 1920)
Birth place: Rinsan county, North Hwanghae Province
Present address: Sohung county, North Hwanghae Province
Taken to: Hunchun, China
Taken in: 1940

24. **Kim Chun Ok**

Age: 70 (Born on February 10, 1923)
Birth place: Yangdok county, South Phyongan Province
Present address: Tangsang-2-dong,
Mangyongdae district, Pyongyang
Taken to: Okinawa, Japan
Taken in: 1941

25. **Kim Pok Sun**

Age: 74 (Born on February 17, 1919)
Birth place: North Jolla Province
Present address: Pugo-ri, Chongam district, Chongjin city,
Taken to: Mokpho, South Jolla Province, Korea
and Yenji county, China
Taken in: 1933

26. **Hwang Son Ok**

Age: 69 (Born on May 6, 1924)
Birth place: Osin-ri, Chongdo county,
North Kyongsang Province
Present address: Ryongnam-ri, Waudo district,
Nampho city, DPRK
Taken to: Xinjing (now Changchun), the then Manchuria
Taken in: Autumn 1941

27. **Kim Yong Suk** (Real name **Kim Kuk Sun**)

Age: 66 (Born on January 24, 1927)
Birth place: Hakpong-ri, Thaechon county,
North Phyongan Province
Present address: Jungdaedu-dong,
Hanggu district, Nampho city
Taken to: Shenyang, China
Taken in: 1939

28. **Ri Chun Hwa**

Age: 74 (Born in 1919)
Birth place: Sindang-ri, Sohung county,
North Hwanghae Province
Present address: Rinsan county township,
North Hwanghae Province
Taken to: Yenji county, China
Taken in: July 1940

29. **Kim Jong Hun**

Age: 68 (Born in 1925)
Birth place: Ryukkyo-1-dong,
Hyongjesan district, Pyongyang
Present address: Yangsa-dong, Haeju city,
South Hwanghae Province
Taken to: China
Taken in: 1942

30. **Won Ryong Hwa**

Age: 78 (Born in 1915)
Birth place: Hupho-dong, Nampho city
Present address: Taeryong-ri, Pongchon county,
South Hwanghae Province
Taken to: Qiqihar, China
Taken in: November 1933

31. **Kim Tok Sun**

Age: 69 (Born on August 11, 1924)
Birth place: Seoul
Present address: Ryangdok-ri, Jasong county,
Jagang Province
Taken to: Singapore
Taken in: 1943

32. **Ri Won**

Age: 81 (Born in 1912)
Birth place: Sinsang-ri, Sinsang county,
South Hamgyong Province
Present address: Kumok-ri, Sungho district, Pyongyang
Taken to: Singapore
Taken in: Summer 1942

33. **Yun Pok Sun**

Age: 66 (Born in 1927)
Birth place: Tongdaemun-gu, Seoul
Present address: Tongbuk-1-dong,
Ryongsong district, Pyongyang
Taken to: Northeast of China
Taken in: 1942

34. **Choe Pong Son**

Age: 68 (Born in 1925)
Birth place: Tochong-ri, Unsan county,
North Phyongan Province
Present address: Phalchong-ri, Taedong county,
South Phyongan Province
Taken to: Heilongjiang Province, China
Taken in: 1938

2. 17 Public Testimonies

Ri Kyong Saeng, 76 years old, Former "Comfort Woman for the Japanese Army," Wonchon-ri, Taedong County, South Phyongan Province, DPRK

My parents died of diseases in 1920 when I was three years old. Even my grandmother who looked after me died in 1923 when I was 6 and I became a beggar.

At 8 I began to take care of a landlord's children. One day, when I was 12 years old the landlord named Jong Ho and my village head urged me to go to the Japanese who had premised to take me to a good factory.

I went out of the gate to see a lorry. I got on it. Four girls were already there. They were Jong Su Pong, Jong Kwang Son, Pak Su Pok and Yun Chun Son, all between 10 to 11. A Japanese carrying a sword and a rifle escorted us, kicking us whenever we cried.

We arrived at a factory in Changwon County, Kyongsang Province, which produced powder and other war supplies. Over 20 girls were there.

My first job was to wait on a Japanese officer. We were served with a small ball of boiled bean and barley for each meal.

I did not work but did whatever the Japanese officer told me to bring him washing water, washing his feet and cutting his toenails.

Several months later I was forced to serve as a comfort girl for Japs. They confined a girl in a room which was about two square meters wide. My room was No. 8.

I had to serve 20 Japanese soldiers on daily average and more on Sundays. The Japs beat and stabbed the comfort girls whenever the latter cried with pain.

While serving I saw four girls killed by the Japs. A girl did not listen well to a Jap. And he forced his penis into her mouth and choked her to death.

Kim Ki Pok (18) from Kyongsang Province resisted Japs as she could not tolerate her nonstop service. The Japs kept her hung from an electric pole the whole night. The following morning they ordered all of us to the electric pole. Then they dismembered her and cut off her head, threatening that they should kill us as they did her if we disobeyed them, before throwing her body into a nearby river.

I was pregnant at the age of 16. The Japs cut open my belly and took out my fetus and cut it to pieces and threw them into a river. And they gouged out my womb to make me not pregnant again.

To escape from this living hell I tried to get wine and side dishes for it. Finally I prepared three bottles of wine and three packets of side dishes for it, with which I got a sentry dead drunk. And I dug a hole under the barbed wire and succeeded in escaping in September 1933.

The Japs are the sworn enemy of the Korean people and savages with whom we cannot live together on this planet. The Japs must unconditionally apologize and compensate for their atrocious crimes. I cannot understand how Japan has been able to go unpunished so far.

Kim Tae Il, 76 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Kaesong City, DPRK

I was born in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province on October 15, 1916. My family consisted of 7 -- my father, my mother, a brother, three younger sisters and me.

We were so poor that at the age of 12 I was sold for 1 mal (7.5 kg) of rice to a rich family as a servant. A few years later, I was sold again to a textile mill run by a Japanese.

In 1932, when I was 16, I was sold to the "Tennoji Hospital" in Osaka, Japan and worked there.

One evening in 1934, when I was 18, the director of the hospital raped me like a beast. Afraid that his crime would be exposed he had my name on the list of the "comfort girls" for the Tokyo 12th Division of the Japanese Army. And I became a sex slave for the soldiers of the division.

I was taken first to Changchun, China. There was a service club, where the Japanese troops were stationed and they used a board house as a service club. A room was a tatami (Japanese mat) wide. Over 100 "comfort girls" were serving Japanese soldiers there and all of them were Koreans.

When I was taken there they gave me a Japanese name and called me "Ishikawa Sujie", instead of my Korean name, or they called me No. 12, which was my room number.

Early in the morning all the "comfort girls" were forced to bow to the direction of the Imperial palace in the yard of the "service club."

We "comfort girls" ate a ball of barley and a piece of salted radish for meal. From 6 a.m. until 2 (a.m.) the next day each of us had to serve 30-40 Japanese officers and soldiers every day on average.

The Japanese officers and soldiers often pounced upon comfort girls" like a pack of wolves. Sometimes two or three Japs turned up at once and fought among themselves like dogs even shedding blood, to be the first to gratify their sexual lust.

Even old officers, such as battalion commander Akizawa and the Deputy Commander of the 12th Division came to satisfy their carnal lust.

Unable to stand pain and disgrace, I once tried to hang myself but failed as I was discovered by the Japanese. One of the Japs brought his sword to my neck and threatened to kill me. And I protested to him, shouting, "I am a Korean woman. Why should we serve you for this disgusting war ? "

A Japanese officer present there heaped insults upon me saying that Korean women were not human beings. After that they herded more men into my room.

After 3 years of service in Changchun, I was taken to Harbin, Shanghai, Nanjing, Guizhou, Guangzhou and Singapore.

The barbarities committed by the Japanese army against the "comfort girls" are too shocking to be spoken or written.

In Shanghai many Korean "comfort girls" died of contagious disease.

The Japanese army set fire to the houses for the patients and threw the corpses into rivers or left them uncovered in mountains.

My service in the 6th Division was very dreadful. This division was shock troops and its soldiers were so brutal that even when they came to the "service club" they carried unsheathed sharp swords in their hands.

A woman called "Hanako" from Pyongyang was pregnant. A Japanese called Tanaka drank heavily and went into her room. He knocked her down, kicked her belly mercilessly, ripped her abdomen open, took out her fetus and cut it to pieces. Then the rascal collected Korean "comfort girls." He took out her bowels with his sword and put them around the necks of the "comfort girls" and ordered them to lick the blood on the floor.

Many of them fainted and even some of them died of rupture of heart.

One day, this Tanaka came to my room with a dog. He set the dog on me, saying, "I have tasted her myself. Now you, too,

taste her yourself." The dog sprang at me and bit me. I lost my consciousness and fell. Then he poured cold water on me and satisfied his fleshly lust madly. The Japanese barbarians even forced an anesthetic into my mouth and put gasoline-soaked cigarettes into mouth, nose and womb and lit them, thus having those parts of my body burnt.

About 20 days before Japanese surrender the Japanese troops lined up over 150 "comfort girls" and beheaded them one by one. Only 3 women narrowly escaped death and were led by a Chinese to a Korean village. There they stayed about 20 days and greeted Korea's liberation on August 15, 1945.

What motivated me to make public my past ? I learned from our TV comment in June last year that a Japanese magazine had said that the Korean women "served" the Japanese soldiers to earn money, distorting the historical fact.

At the comment I could not hold back my rising anger and made up my mind to open to the public my bitter past to express the past crimes of the Japanese imperialists and emphasize that such crimes should never be allowed to be committed again against women of Korea and the rest of the world and to denounce the present Japanese Government's mean and cunning manoeuvres to embellish its past.

It is too brazen-faced and shameless for the Japanese magazine to allege that women had become "comfort girls" to earn money. Japan drafted Korean women as "comfort girls" and made them sex slaves and killed them indiscriminately.

Has Japan ever "paid" for these crimes ? We do not know about such a thing as yet.

There are no women on earth who want to sell their youth and dignity and become sex slaves more miserable than animals for money.

A mere thought of my service as a "comfort girl" makes my blood run cold. On account of such a disgraceful service I still

suffer from female disorder and heart disease and I faint quite often.

The Japanese imperialists completely deprived me of my youth and violated it and I have no remainder of my youth.

Although several decades have passed I can never forget the faces and names of those barbarians who committed such disgusting atrocities.

Even if they are dead now, their corpses should be dug out to be judged by mankind.

Yun Kyong Ae, 73 years old, Former "Comfort Girl for the Japanese Army," Kuryon-ri, Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province, DPR of Korea

I was born the second daughter in a poor farmer's family in Sanghae-ri, Samgang-myon, Jaeryong County, South Hwanghae Province, in 1920.

My mother died when I was 6 years old and my father was a farm servant. I became a maid in the landlord's house and worked as a slave till when I was 15. As I tried to run away, the landlord sold me to a bar and from then onward I wandered from one place to another.

I worked in Sariwon and Nampho before going to Pyongyang in 1941. At that time strange Japanese men turned up in Pyongyang and collected "workforce", especially, young women. One of them said, "The Imperial Army is gaining victories as the leader of Asia, and there have been offered good jobs for you."

He also said that we would get good food, fine clothing and a large sum of money. So I was taken to a "Labour Information

centre." There were many young women and I stayed there for about one month.

One day, some Japanese policemen who were armed, escorted the women who had been collected from different parts to Pyongyang Station and they were made to leave for Pusan.

When I arrived in Pusan, thousands of Korean girls around the age of 20 had assembled there. They came from all parts of Korea. I stayed there for about 10 days before being named "Kaneko", a Japanese name, and sent to board a warship with Japanese troops, tanks and guns.

All the women were boarded on seven warships. I was innocent and thought that they were taking us to Japan to give us the job of "nurses." But it was Singapore that the warships arrived in after 40 days of voyage.

The Japanese troops put Korean girls on hundreds of lorries and dropped them in tens in their barracks. I was taken to a deep valley called "Rasio" along with eight other women.

There was an one-storied building, with reed-mats between the walls and with bamboo floors in the corridor. Each room had a small bed, I knew afterwards that one regiment of the Japanese Army stationed there.

A Japanese officer turned up one day, and bellowed that we should obey the Japanese Army, that it was our duty to "His Majesty the Emperor", and that those who did not obey would be killed. As he finished his speech Japanese soldiers lined our rooms. I was put in Room No 9.

Soldiers with red armbands described with the letter "leave" went into the rooms like a pack of dogs. In the day-time about 40 soldiers, crept upon me, at night 5-6 officers. The women now realized that they had been disgraced and they resisted desperately.

The Japanese troops tortured resisting girls and killed them cruelly. One girl would not give up, so they bound her

neck, arms and legs separately to 5 horses and pulled the beasts in different directions. Thus she was dead. Then they said to the other girls, "If you do not obey, you'll be killed in the same way".

Those who were sick or undernourished were either thrown into the sea or burned to death after being sprayed gasoline.

Four years had passed in such nightmare. We were dragged to the battlefields in Singapore and forced to misfortunes in trenches dripping with blood. Out of the nine girls, six died and three survived.

Then we were taken prisoners along with the defeated Japanese soldiers and were sent to a concentration camp to stay there for one and half years. After having suffered the bestial outrages by the Japanese we were forced to endure the POW's life with them.

I was invalid because of acute laryngitis which destroyed my voicing organ. Blood spilled from my nose and my mouth. I had become disfigured when I was still young.

I was ashamed to think that I should return home with such a bitter past, but still I longed for my homeland. Some of my friends cursed their fate and denied their return-home. But I decided to return home before I would die there. It was in April 1947, two years later, that I arrived in Unpha County, after dropping in some countries.

I have lived neither tasting the happiness of a home, nor the warmth of a mother feeding her children.

Whenever I look back on my bitter past, memories of thousands of Korean women who had been fated to the same life came to my mind.

How can I describe the brutal crimes committed by the Japanese who occupied Korea, forced Koreans to slavery and plundered them of all their resources.

The matter of "comfort girl" alone is sufficient to condemn them forever. But the Japanese Government does not recognize its crimes and is even seeking to evade its compensation and apology.

The Japanese Government must act with prudence. How would it be silent if it knew that their people were forced to massacre, sexual abuse and sexual slavery ?

The Japanese Government must make full apology for what they had done in the past and pay compensation.

The whole world must put pressure on Japan and take sanctions against it so that they can never evade their responsibilities.

Ri Pok Nyo, 74 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Kukdong Workers' District,
Hwasong County,
North Hamgyong Province, DPRK

I was born in 1919 in Puksu-ri, Suwon sub-county, Suwon county, Kyonggi Province. I lost my father as a child and had to earn my bread as I began to see things.

I went in search of living to the Mudanjiang area in Northeast China, where, in 1942 when I was 23, I was taken by the Japanese imperialist aggressor troops to a "comfort house."

I and other Korean women were put in freight wagons and trucks and sent to a deep mountain valley on the border between China and the former Soviet Union, which they called "Puza Valley."

Inside the fence of double barbed wires hung with bells was a long one-storied house made of wood, and it was the "comfort house."

In the "comfort house" I was named "Harukko." I was put in the first room on the right side of the door. And the floor of the rooms was littered with straws and the walls between the rooms were formed by wooden boards, which reminded one of a pig style.

I was forced to deal with Japanese soldiers who had holidays in turn once every week. I was given no rest. When I cried in resistance, an officer said, "you must obey the demand of our 'Imperial Army', or you will be killed."

Everyday from 30 to 35 men pounced on me and in the evenings I was raped by 8 to 10 officers. It was more than a hell.

I was not allowed to look in the next room since I was guarded by Japanese soldiers. They were cruel and bestial. They came in military uniforms wearing the red arm bands and holding swords in their hands.

They beat or killed anyone if she dared to resist or tried to run away. One day I contrived to run and they realized my intention. They heated the gongs in flame, which were used by the military band and put them to my thighs.

But I never gave up my scheme, the result was a dreadful torture, so my injuries were never healed.

My legs are still covered with the scars which had been left on my body since that time.

One day a group of soldiers came and they chose a woman who was 30 years old.

When he resisted they called all the women in the "comfort house" outside to gather around a tree, and said that they would teach a "lesson" to the "beggars."

They hanged her upside down on a tree and beat her with their rifle butts, then they cut out her breasts and pushed their bayonet into her womb.

After she was dead, they shouted to us: "You Korean beggars, you will also be killed like her if you don't obey our 'Imperial Army.'" Many of the women fell in faint because of heart attack.

One day they brought a Chinese man they had caught and beheaded him. They put it in a boiling cauldron, and hooked it up on a long pole so that others could see it and they forced the Korean women to drink the water in the cauldron.

After the defeat of the Japanese imperialists I escaped death narrowly, but only five of the 20 Korean women survived.

Many years have passed since then, but I still remember clearly the faces of the Japanese soldiers who had done such shocking atrocities upon me. I can not forget the crimes perpetrated by them.

To them Korean women were less than the animals. The young women were disgraced and their souls distorted but some of them have survived to condemn the brazen-faced Japanese authorities who deny even apology and compensation.

They can never compensate for their outrages on human bodies and human rights whatever great cost.

Can they return the lost souls and deprived youth of the women if they offer mountains of gold ?

Only curses upon the Japanese Government !

Jang Su Wol, 69 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Chilgol-3-dong,
Mangyongdae District,
Pyongyang, DPRK

I was born the second daughter in a tenant farmer's family in Ripsok-ri, Anju County, South Phyongan Province, on March 20, 1924.

I lived with my father, mother, an elder sister and a younger brother. My father was unable to support his family with his labour and my family moved to Pyongyang in autumn 1931.

He worked at a wheat flour company where glutinous cakes were made. I worked from the age 14 to 17, at a West Pyongyang shoe factory where Japanese wooden shoes were produced.

One day in September 1941, when I was 17, a Japanese foreman came to me and said that there was a good job and that if I took it I would receive three times as much money a month.

At that time, I had been plagued by the never-ending poverty in my family, and it did not make any difference whether I went to this or that factory, if I could earn much enough. So I followed him.

When I went to Pyongyang Station there were seven girls who had come for the same reason. We boarded a train and soon realized that some Japanese policemen were watching us.

They even followed us when we went to toilet. I knew that I was deceived and I began to think of how I could run away but it was too late. It took several days for us to reach Qiqihar in China.

There were already 15 Korean girls and put them altogether we had 22 members. We were taken to a "comfort house" which resembled a public toilet.

A room was barely enough for two persons and its floor was covered with Japanese straw-mats. Each room had its number and a girl's name was pasted on it.

The host of the "comfort house" said to me, "Your room is No. 5 and your name is "Terutso" from today. You'll be killed if you speak Korean."

I had thought that the building was a factory hostel and I would be employed at a factory there. But now I realized that I was fooled, that I would never return home. I wept bitterly.

From the next day, soldiers of the "Imperial Army" came in line into my room. When I refused to take off my clothes they put a dagger about my neck and threatened to kill me before pouncing upon me.

I had to deal with 15-20 soldiers a day in the daytime and officers at night. On Sunday I had to deal with as many as 30 bestial soldiers and I had not even eaten lunch.

After the thing was done, I was ordered to fasten the white coverings around their legs. If I was clumsy for doing it I was beaten mercilessly.

My meal was a lump of rolled-barley mixed with potato and salted cabbage and I ate the same meal for 4 years. They did not care for the periods.

I could not bear their outrage, one night in June 1945, I begged a Japanese officer for my toileting and ran away. At that time, officers with higher ranks were privileged to take a woman to their own rooms for one night and satisfied their carnal desire. So I became free, but I did not know what people said about and where I was.

I had no money, nor food. I had to dig grass to eat and begged for food wandering from place to place. I roamed about in China when liberation came in Korea and it was through the offices of Koreans in northeast China that I came by train to Pyongyang where I met my parents, sister and younger brother.

My parents were shaken to see me and wept as never before. I had no courage to tell all my story, my shameful life.

I did not talk it to them and lived in tears behind them. I had been utterly disgraced by the Japanese, and how could I beg mercy of Korean men, so I decided that I would live alone.

I am a woman, and I might have enjoyed a family life and its warmth. I am near 70 years of age. I would have lived with my sons, daughters, and grandchildren and receiving their respect and affection.

How greatly I envy the happy old woman who goes for a walk with her husband, with their grandchildren on Sundays or holidays. The Japanese deprived me of my youth and disgraced me.

I have become poor at hearing because of the mental and physical outrages done by the Japanese soldiers. My teeth are all false which prevents my digesting.

I was compelled to become a smoker at a young age, quite unusual for Korean women. How can the Japanese authorities deny the statements of the victims and their forced conscription of Korean women ?

Is there any woman who would volunteer to go to such a place when there is no guarantee of her life and ruining her life ? Are there any father or mother who want to send their loving children to such a place ?

If it were the Japanese girls, or if it were their parents, would they be willing to do so ? The Japanese authorities are extremely imprudent.

From the beginning I had been deceived and then I was forced to distort my soul.

I appeal to all the honest people over the world. I wish them to take strong measures so that our grievances are resolved and the Japanese Government make compensation and apology.

I strongly demand that the Japanese government honestly admit its crimes, apologize to the Korean people and swear that they would never again commit such evil deeds.

I shall never die before full apology is made.

Jong Ok Sun, 73 years old, Former "Comfort Woman for the Japanese Army," Sayon-ri, Kangryong County, South Hwanghae Province, DPRK

In 1934 when I was 14 years old, I was taken as "comfort woman for the Japanese army." At that time, my house was in Phabal-ri, Phungsan County. (Today's Phabal-ri, Kim Hyong Gwon County).

One day, while my parents were working at the field, the armed Japanese policemen came to me. They stuffed my mouth, put me on a truck and took me to the Phabal-ri Police Station.

After learning this fact, my parents rushed to the police station and urged them to release me. But the police beat my parents with their wooden swords, and kicked them, saying that they knew nothing about me.

Detained in the police cell, I was raped by five policemen. When I cried out, they stuffed rags in my mouth, with my legs bound up to a chair, began to violate me in turn.

One month passed. One day I came to learn something from the words that passed between the policemen that many girls had already been to this police station and raped there before being taken away somewhere.

Later I was handed over to the Japanese army barracks near the police station. There were many girls at the age of 17-18. Before being handed over to the Japanese army they were kidnapped by the Phabal-ri Police Station in Phungsan county.

The army officer ordered us to gather, and said that each of us should deal with 50 garrison soldiers of the "Imperial army" every day.

Every day many visitors came. If girls cried out, gags were put into their months. When resistance continued, soldiers threatened them to kill by pointing the blade of dagger at their private parts. In this way my body was bruised and my legs got injured. One day 4 years later, eight Japanese officers appeared naked and started making lewd advances towards me.

After doing all manner of inhuman acts they thrust the halt of a dagger inside my private part. Unbearable, I bit them. They took me out and tortured me with water and hung me naked upside down from a horizontal bar. And then, they forced an iron club inside my mouth and whirled it round to break all my teeth.

Not satisfied with this, they placed my lips inside out and tattooed on them with stamp full of needles, and continued tattooing on my breasts, backs, legs, stomach and even on my private part. When I lost my consciousness, they threw me in the garbage dump.

The physical pain was unbearable. I was more indignant at tattoos so that I cried out. Even today, the traces of tattoos remain in my body.

Because of these scars, I have never been to public bathrooms and swimming pools like other people. Even in the hottest summer days, I could not wear a short-sleeve shirt.

Of course, such a tragedy is not confined to me alone. The "comfort woman" life forced by the Japs brought death as well as unbearable physical and mental agony to many Korean women.

Though many years have passed since then, physical and mental scars still remain. No matter how the Japanese Government may pay compensation, they can never wipe out the deep-rooted grudges and scars left in my heart and on my body and, moreover, the history of the crimes committed by the old Japanese government can never be concealed or erased.

The Japanese Government should abandon its crafty attempt to cover up and justify the monstrous crimes committed by its ancestors and should investigate the real state of affairs, make the results public and make sincere apology and compensation.

Pak Pok I, 67 years old, Former "Comfort Woman
for the Japanese Army,"
Honam-ri, Sinpho City,
South Hamgyong Province, DPRK

I was born on June 20, 1926 in Jinju, South Kyongsang Province.

One day when I was 17 years old, the village headman at Kaehwa-dong, Munsan, Jinju City, South Kyongsang Province told me that he would help me to go to Japan. Fallen into his trap, I left Pusan Port on May 2, 1943 and went to Shimonoseki by ship. I saw about 50 girls aged under 15 to 17 there. Upon arrival at Shimonoseki all of us were taken to an inn.

I begged to be returned to my paternal aunt's home, but in vain. I was taken to the harbour of Shimonoseki again by truck.

We, 20 girls including me, embarked on the ship "Kibi-maru." Some days later, we arrived in Taiwan and were taken to an inn under the signboard of "Kiru." At the inn 20 girls including me were selected and were taken by truck to the "Kikusairo" airforce barracks from Taichi Station. Within the barracks there was a comfort building under the signboard of "Kikusairo."

It was an one-storeyed building and each room was about 8 square metres wide. There was a bed with a sheet of blanket, two pillows and a water glass. Room No.8 was allotted to me. I had to serve 5 to 6 Japanese pilots every day, and 10 sometimes.

A Japanese named Yamamoto Osika was in charge of the "comfort house" and there were five men under him. I saw the

men receiving 2 yen (Japanese currency) per hour and handing them over to the chief. But we "comfort women" received no money.

When I refused to serve them, they beat me, saying: "Koreans must serve the Imperial Army." A soldier coiled a water snake around my neck to make me lose consciousness when I refused to serve him.

Those who attempted to escape were killed. I witnessed a Korean girl named Jang Sun who was captured while fleeing, beaten to death.

After going through such a wretched life, I came to Japan with the help of one of my relatives in May 1946 one year after the defeat of the Japanese imperialists. I returned to the motherland by the 17th repatriation ship in 1960.

More than 50 years have passed since then. But my wounded heart still remains unhealed. I can never forget my past even if I die.

Through the past atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialists and the attitude of the present Japanese Government which tries to evade responsibility, I think there is no difference between the old and present Japanese governments.

Ri Hyon Suk, 71 years old, Former "Comfort Woman
for the Japanese Army,"
Migok-ri, Sariwon City,
North Hwanghae Province, DPRK

I was born in 1922 in Tongdaemun-gu, Seoul, as the only daughter of a poor family. Though I attained my 18th year, I was not allowed to attend the school. My only younger brother could not but enter other family as an adopted son.

One autumn day in 1940, when I was 18, a Japanese named Sigeichi appeared in my village and told me that he would find a good job for me.

Fallen into his trap, I went to Pusan. Hundreds of Korean girls of around twenty years were there. They said that they would work in a factory in Japan.

I, together with them, was taken by boat to Shimonoseki, Japan, where we stayed for some time.

During my stay there, I was forced to use the Japanese name "Humiko." The same was the case with other girls.

Some days later, we were again taken to a village in the suburbs of Shanghai, China.

The girls learned that they had been deceived by the Japanese and cried, asking them to allow them to go home.

Japanese promised them to find good jobs if they acted as required by them.

But what waited for us there was not a factory, but a "comfort house for the army." Then a humiliating life began. For about two years I served the Japanese army as a "comfort girl" in Shanghai. At dawn one day, we were ordered to gather at the harbour, with our things in our hands.

I saw some 1,000 Korean women there. I had no idea about where they were from. We got into a large cargo ship loaded with guns and tanks, as well as Japanese soldiers, which headed southward.

The ship stopped at the islands on the Pacific Ocean under Japanese occupation and in each island many girls were disembarked.

I was taken to a "comfort house" in Showatoori, Singapore. Nineteen girls including me were taken to a four-storeyed apartment under rigid surveillance.

There were 17 blocks of flats of such kind. All were comfort buildings. A room on the second floor was allotted to me. A wooden bed with two blankets was on the concrete floor. At that time, the Japanese soldiers were on weekly leave from the front once every week. Every day I had to serve 30 to 35 men.

On top of it, I was forced to serve 4 to 5 officers at night. The officers and soldiers of the Japanese army used to say to us: "Serving the Imperial Army of the Great Japanese Empire is the way of selfless devotion to the Emperor."

One day, a girl in my next room bit at the face of a Japanese soldier, enraged at his detestable act. Then several Japanese soldiers stormed into her room and took her out. She was never heard of again. It was known later that she was dragged into a forest and was gang-raped and beaten before she was killed.

Unable to overcome the mental and physical pain they had to suffer everyday, many of them tried to escape and resisted desperately and some committed suicide.

A girl whose name was Ri on the first floor, died, hanging herself by the window. Once every week medical check-up was conducted. Those who were attacked by diseases were killed secretly.

At the time the Korean women were forced to lead secluded life with a strict ban on their contact. So I could learn these tragic events only after the defeat of Japanese imperialism. Out of 19 only six Korean women could survive after the war.

Four girls died of hunger and illness while wandering about the beach in Singapore on the way home. I and another girl alone could return home. After making a narrow escape from the jaw of death, I returned to Seoul. But my parents had already passed away.

I left Seoul out of disgrace to my past life, and settled in Songrim together with the girl who returned home together.

There I got married, but I was unable to bear a child. Out of guilt I left my husband after four years. Since then I have been living alone.

Even now, the images of the numerous innocent Korean women who were drafted to an alien land to be deprived of their youth and murdered cruelly flash across my mind. Sometimes my sleep is troubled by their images.

It seems as if the souls of the women are urging us in an alien land many miles apart to revenge for them.

I think that both the old and present Japanese governments must stand international trial for their crimes.

The Japanese government must examine the situation squarely, make a thorough investigation into the criminal acts committed by its predecessors and make sincere apology and due compensations.

Ro Hyon Hwa, 70 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Aewon-ri, Ryonggang County,
Nampho City, DPRK

I was born on October 25, 1922, in Jisa-ri, Ryonggang County,
South Phyongan Province.

My family consisted of parents and 4 daughters and I was the youngest. My father died when I was 5. My father was the only son. So we had no relatives. My mother and we, daughters worked hard, farming on a small plot of land and selling the straw bags we wove. But we could hardly emerge from poverty.

In October, 1940 when I was 18, a landlord whose nickname was Tolle came to my house together with a Japanese. I don't know him by name.

He was in a black jacket and had his hair cut close. He said that he could provide a good job for me and asked my mother to send me with the Japanese. No sooner had my mother refused than the Japanese gave a hard kick on my mother's face, thus breaking two of her front teeth.

Then they forced me into a lorry and started for Pyongyang Railway Station. I was forcibly taken into a dimlylit wagon with 3 other Korean girls, the wagon which was used to carry military horses. There were more than 20 wagons. Every wagon was crowded with Korean girls. Some girls were crying and others were sitting absent-mindedly. We could not know where we were going, for the doors of wagon were locked from the outside.

At mealtime, a rice-ball was provided to each girl through small windows. In our wagon, most of the girls were aged between 15 and 16. Three or four days passed and the train reached Mudanjiang, China. From there we were taken to Japanese barracks which were over 4 kilometres away.

I stepped into a 2-storeyed building with 3 other Korean girls who had come with me from Pyongyang Railway Station. (Two girls, called Myong Ok (17) and Pong Nyo (17) were from Nampho and a girl called Hak Sil (16) was from Pyongyang).

There were 4 rooms on the ground floor. Each of us was allotted to a room. When we stepped in, the rooms were locked from the outside. Each room was to 2-5 metres wide and 3 metres long. The floor was covered with wooden boards. When I looked out of the window, I could find another building just across from ours. Many Korean girls were seen going in and out. It was towards the evening that we arrived at our destination.

That night a Japanese officer with yellow shoulder straps came into my room, wearing a sword at his side. He said to me "be absolutely obedient to the Japanese officers from now on. This is the way of faithfully obeying the orders of the Japanese Emperor. Korean women must die if they do not want to be obedient to us." Then he sprang at me.

I resisted, taking his hand between my teeth. He also sank his teeth into the forefinger of my left hand, thus making a knuckle out of order. I continued to resist him. He wrenched my arms and tied them behind. Then he made me kneel down and beat me, kicking the upper part of my thigh with his boots mercilessly.

After I fell senseless, he gratified his carnal desire. I did not know how many soldiers came to my room that night. I regained consciousness at dawn and found that I lay with my arms tied behind. I was forced to serve Japanese soldiers from about eight o'clock in the evening to dawn every day.

Myong Ok's room was next to mine and Pong Nyo's was next to her. They were also forced to serve the soldiers like me. Blood oozed from the torn genitals of Pong Nyo. So every night she groaned with pain, crying for help.

Officers alone came into the rooms of us four girls. Every night 10 to 15 officers and, sometimes, as many as 20 officers came to each of our rooms.

Each of them remained in our rooms for 30 to 40 minutes on average and if they go out earlier we had to serve more persons. At the bath and meal times we were always followed by armed guards or were under close surveillance. We were not allowed to look each other in the face or chat with each other.

Our meal consisted of a ball of boiled barley and rice and some of salted radish.

They cut off our clothes with their swords and forced us to wear Japanese coats shaped like a Korean topcoat. When the time of "service" came they even took these coats away. We could not change our clothes even once in three years.

There was a small window on the door of each room. Some officers were delighted to the scene of Korean girls being raped. If we girls resisted or refused to obey they dragged us

out of the rooms whipped us up with leather and even broke our ribs with the back of their swords.

After the defeat of the Japanese imperialists, their troops took to flight. I received 2 won from a Korean living nearby for my traveling expenses and returned to my hometown. Because of my shameful past I lived single for over 10 years before I became a man's second wife but I could not give birth to a baby.

Owing to the aftereffects of a disease I got in those days my waist, legs, fingers do not work properly today, thus causing me to suffer physical pain at all times. Whenever I think of my youth deprived by Japanese imperialist aggressors, I can hardly allay my resentment. I cannot die before I clear my deep-rooted rancour against the Japanese who made it impossible for me to enjoy my youthful days, my love and happiness as a woman.

No matter how much the Japanese government may make compensation my youthful days and love will never come again. Nevertheless, the Japanese government is trying its hardest to shirk responsibility until today from making a sincere apology and due compensation for the victims.

We must settle the deep-seated, bitter grudge that remain in the hearts of numerous Korean women who were drafted as "comfort girls" and died unobserved.

The Japanese Government must give up its shameless acts and make a clear apology and a due compensation for the crimes the former Japanese Government committed against the Korean people.

Kim Kun Suk, 70 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army",
Taephyong-ri, Phihyon County,
North Phyongan Province, DPRK

Before the country's liberation I was taken away as a "comfort girl" for the Japanese imperialist aggressor army and had to suffer indelible disgrace. But until now when I am 70

years old I could not satisfy my deep-seated grudge against the Japanese.

Hearing of "results of investigation" made public by the Japanese Government and of some distorted articles printed in some Japanese publications with regard to the issue of "comfort girls for the Japanese army" I could not remain silent any longer, and decided to lay bare all the facts I had experienced and had seen with my own eyes.

In the "results of investigation" said that it "could not ascertain through what channels and how many women were drafted as "comfort girls" in Korea at that time. What a cheek it has got !

Before liberation the Japanese government and military authorities took away numerous Korean women in a planed way.

At that time I was attending school in Seoul. One day in August, 1938 I went to a park in the city to play together with my schoolmates Kyong Suk and Yong Ja and we became a target of "girl hunting" by the Japs.

Three Japanese pounced upon us and forcibly took us to the railway station. Then we were forced to get aboard a wagon where we found over 100 girls. Only then we realized that we were caught in a net of "girl hunting" and cried, writhing in a desperate agony, but it was in vain.

The Japanese soldiers locked the wagon from the outside and took us as far as Pusan. We could see a lot of drafted women who had arrived there earlier than us. All of us were treated like criminals. Again we were forced to get aboard ship and then train to be taken to Shenyang (the then Fengtian of Manchuria) of China.

The city seemed to be gathering place of "comfort girls" for we found there hundreds of drafted Korean women.

The distressing scene I witnessed brought me the poignant realization that this girl hunting was done intentionally by the

Japanese government and military authorities not by a few scoundrels. As soon as we got to the "comfort house", we were deprived of our Korean names and were forced to be called in Japanese names.

In addition, we were stripped off Korean clothes and were coerced to wear Japanese clothes. I fell a victim to the Japanese army, with my virginal purity violated ruthlessly, like the other drafted girls.

However, it is said that a manager of a Japanese magazine has insulted us Korean women, saying that we became "comfort girls" of our own accord to earn money." Through this alone we can see how brazen-faced the present Japanese rulers and the publications on the payroll of the Japanese government are.

If we had become "comfort girls" voluntarily, why did we weep aloud, bumping our heads against the wall of wagons and the pillars of the freight vessel ?

If it was "a fortune-making job," why did the Japanese not send their own daughters ?

The mere thought of the sufferings I had to undergo in the "comfort house" makes me shudder even today although many years have passed.

Every day dozen of brutal Japanese soldiers pounced upon me and mercilessly trampled down my youthful spirit and body in a shabby "house" whose rooms were walled up with thin boards like sheds for cattle. What a shame that I was subjected to humiliation as their sexual slave.

But more mortifying and more unforgettable is that a large number of innocent Korean women were killed cruelly after they had been totally trampled down by the Japanese soldiers.

One day, I heard a scream for help coming from the yard and rushed out. Yong Ja in the next room who had come from Seoul with me was lying on the ground, shedding blood, with her legs and arms tied tightly. At the sight of her breast cut off and

her left arm chopped I fainted. I returned to my consciousness after a while, and saw Japanese soldiers dragging her out although she was still alive.

As soon as I resisted them, they tied my arms behind and kicked me recklessly on the head, on the shoulders and on the back with the back of their swords.

I lost my senses and was locked in a warehouse. I was not allowed to drink a mouthful of water and it was 3 days later that I was released. I heard nothing of Yong Ja who had been dragged away several days before. Pak Kyong Suk, who had come from Seoul with me was also killed by Japanese soldiers later.

Japanese soldiers made the Korean women their sex slaves and killed them at random at any time and any place. But they got off scot-free. Because the "comfort houses", as Japanese soldiers said, were run by order of the Japanese government and military authorities.

Later, I got rid of that devilish den with difficulty and wandered from place to place. In the course of this I had a chance to see brothels run by vice racketeers but nowhere could I found guards and wire entanglements as in the "comfort houses."

It was not some vice racketeers but the then Japanese authorities that perpetrated indelible crimes against the "comfort girls" in an organized manner.

However, the Japanese authorities tried to shirk responsibility on to the vice racketeers and a newspaper on the payroll of the government said that it was "absurd when viewed from the feeling of the Japanese side."

How can they utter such words impudently if they are not lunatic ?

Even now, though belated, the Japanese Government must pay due attention to the cries full of rancour uttered by those Korean women who left this world with their youth deprived of

and by those who are those survivors of the former "comfort girls." Moreover, it must honestly reflect on its shameful past and make due compensation for them.

Owing to the aftereffect of the disgraceful life as "comfort girl" life that was forced upon by the Japanese imperialists, I have no child and am supported by my nephew and I am now an old woman already at the age of seventies.

I am determined to devote the rest of my life to satisfy the grudge of the Korean women who were killed cruelly by the Japanese.

Kim Yong Sil, 68 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Sinjang-ri, Hyesan City,
Ryanggang Province, DPRK

I was born in Pochon County, Ryanggang Province, on October 21, 1924.

My family consisted of my parents and 5 children (2 sons and 3 daughters). My mother had to support the family, for my father was always ill in bed. Our family was very poor.

My family was so badly off that my parents sent me to my aunt at Hoeryong. But, it was after the death of my aunt that I arrived there. So I had to go about begging and did errands for other people to earn my bread.

One day when I was 18, a Japanese in western clothes approached me and said that he could provide a good job for me and asked me to follow him. Although I had no idea about such a job, I followed him, thinking that the job would be better than going about begging. When I got to the place I found dozens of girls of my age.

Carried by a lorry, we were brought to Hoeryong railway station. We took a train and got off at Chonghak-dong, Kyonghung

County, North Hamgyong Province (now Undok County.) From there we were again carried by a lorry to reach a deep valley.

More than 10 girls aged between 17 and 18 were already there. Japanese soldiers took us to a board-framed house and ordered everyone of us to go into each room.

The house was the "comfort house," with each room walled up with straw bags and boards, and voices from the adjacent room were heard clearly.

From that day I was called in Japanese name, "Eiko." The man having entered my room was one of those who had taken us to the place. Formerly he had been in western clothes, but now he was in military uniform with the shoulder strap of lieutenant. He was the first to rape me.

Then 7 other officers satisfied their lusts by turns. From the next day, I was forced to serve 20 to 30 officers and men a day.

On Sundays 40 to 50 soldiers pounced upon me to satisfy their sexual desire. We always felt hungry, for we were given nothing but only small barley food balls and some soup.

A remote mountain village called Hongyi was not far from our "comfort house" and we were often forced to go out to serve those Japanese soldiers who were stationed somewhere about the village. There were 3 army posts in the area, but Hongyi village alone had no "comfort house."

That was why we were ordered to go there for service. We underwent medical check-up once a week. Anyone who was considered to be unfit for sex service because of illness was taken away and a new "comfort girl" would take her place.

I was forced to serve Japanese soldiers from 9 o'clock in the morning till late at night. Sometimes, I was forced to serve until dawn for several days. One day a girl, named "Tokiko," was caught by an officer, for she had spoken in

Korean. We were ordered to assemble in the field. Then the officer cut off her head with his sword in front of us.

Terribly frightened, we ran away, weeping aloud. When a girl named, "Junko," was delivered of baby Japanese soldiers whispered to each other and took her away. Since then, we heard nothing from her.

Several girls took their own lives by hanging themselves, unable to endure any longer their disgraceful life as "comfort girls." One Sunday, I refused to serve an officer because I was sick. Then he sat upon me, grasped my hair and bumped my head against the floor several times.

When I bit him in the arm he shook it off and my two teeth were broken. The following day, several soldiers pounced upon me and poured water into my nostril. As soon as my stomach swelled they put a board on it and pressed it hard with their feet. Whenever I came to my senses, they repeated the same action.

On August 13, 1945, a Japanese officer ordered us to get ready to go to Japan with them. We all gathered, discussed how to run away and decided to escape one by one. I was the first to flee. Up to the present I have not met any other girls nor have I heard anything from them.

Afraid of the exposure of disgrace and ashamed of my past, I made up mind not to get married.

I appeal to all the men of conscience the world over to give me strength so that I can lay bare the cruel atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese army before the people of the whole world and give full vent to my deep-rooted enmity.

Jong Song Myong, 69 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
For the Japanese Army,"
Pongsu-dong, Wonsan City,
Kangwon Province, DPRK

I was born in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, Korea. My family consisted of my father and mother, two younger brothers and two younger sisters and myself. I was the eldest daughter. My father passed away when I was 12 and my mother had to feed five mouths, so we barely kept alive.

Toward the end of August 1943, when I was 19, a Japanese named Maeda, approached me and said: "If you join the "Teishintai (Voluntary Corps) and work for six months you can make a lot of money." So, I got on train in Wonsan to Mokpho together with 8 other girls.

But the place we arrived at was not Mokpho but Pusan. There I was detained for 2 days and was handed over to another Japanese. Thus I was forced to get on board a ship at Pusan port together with more than 400 girls and go to Singapore via Taiwan.

The Japanese soldiers made half of the girls get off the ship at the port of Singapore. All other girls, including me boarded another ship to Rangoon, Burma.

After our arrival in Rangoon, I, together with 19 other girls, was carried by lorry only at night for two or three days to reach a village called "Meiktila." The Japanese military unit stationed where we had been taken was called "Sanbocho Regiment 33."

The formal name of our "comfort house" was the "Meiktila comfort house", and Japanese lieutenant Nakamura, aged about 33, was in charge of it.

The "comfort house" was made up of two buildings, with some space between them.

Each had 10 rooms which were partitioned by bamboo-mats. Each room was only 2 square metres and could hardly accommodate two persons in the room. There were only a straw mattress and blanket.

Visible on the outer wall of my room was a plate bearing my Japanese name, "Kinue" instead of my Korean name. I was forced to take off my Korean clothes and to wear Japanese style "Kantaku", and was forbidden to speak Korean.

After I entered room, I could not get out of it freely, because a soldier was on guard outdoors.

On the day of my arrival there, the aide-de-camp of the Regimental Commander entered my room.

Then he stripped me naked abruptly and satisfied his carnal desire despite of my desperate resistance. If we refused to comply with the demand of Japanese bastards, they would mercilessly torture us.

One evening I did not feel well and was so exhausted that I told the aide-de-camp of the Regimental Commander not to step in.

The bastard kicked the door open, unsheathing his sword, threw me to the ground, seated himself on me and threatened to kill me. In defiance of his threat, I made a protest, shouting: "It makes no difference whether I die today or tomorrow. Kill me if you want."

He pulled me up and stripped me off and lashed me with a horsewhip brutally. As I fell senseless, he satisfied his carnal desire.

I barely managed to come to myself as my colleagues attended on me. But such thing happened repeatedly. The same might be said of the other girls.

I had to serve non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the morning and at noon and officers from 8 o'clock in the evening until the hour of rising the following day.

We have to serve 20 to 25 soldiers a day and 30 to 40 soldiers on Sundays.

We underwent medical check-up once a week, but we were given no treatment even if we were taken ill. A woman who was with us died of malaria without receiving any proper medical treatment, although she was seriously ill for three months. Japs threw her body into Irrawaddy river instead of burying her corpse.

One night toward the end of the War, the Japanese soldiers fled secretly, leaving no food behind and deserting us Korean women.

We, 19 "comfort girls," strayed aimlessly through jungles, barely keeping alive with the aid of herb roots. At night we threw ourselves into each other's arms, full of fear, and wept over and over again, calling our mothers.

After a month we arrived in Thailand with difficulty. 6 months later, that is in 1947 we returned to our native towns aboard a ship to our homeland. After my return to my home town I met my mother and my younger brothers and sisters whom I had longed to see so much but I could not tell them about my disgraceful life as a "comfort girl." So I told a lie that I had been a nurse before my return home. My mother was very pleased without knowing the truth, saying that it was extremely fortunate that I was back from abroad alive.

But, this happiness did not last long, for I did not want to marry. My mother pressed me for an explanation of my refusal of marriage and scolded me angrily, but I could not tell her the reason. My mother remained regretful for my resolve until her death.

My neighbours also said that there was something strange about me. As a woman I also had an impulse to love and be loved

in return. Like the other women, I also wanted to enjoy the happiness of a mother who makes a home, gives birth to babies and brings them up.

But, I thought that if I got married my husband would be aware of my past and desert me and that if he deserted me, my disgrace would be exposed fully. That is why I decided not to be married.

When I turned 40 years of age, I had to have my uterus removed completely owing to the aftereffects of my disgraceful life as a "comfort girl."

Many years have passed, but I can never forget the abominable things that happened in those days, I hate bitterly the Japanese who have deprived me of my youth and of everything valuable in my life. But I could not take courage to indict them.

I had been in agony at the thought that if the people knew my past how they would think of me. But after I saw former Korean "comfort girls" testifying to the truth through TV and newspapers, I also made a courageous decision to indict them. I have nothing to fear, for I have neither husband nor child.

Speaking out my mind full of inveterate grudge, I would like to appeal to all the honest-minded people the world over to help me pay off my old scares and to drag the main culprits into court.

Nearly half a century has passed since the end of the War. But the Japanese Government is still unwilling to admit its past crimes.

So I, joining my voice in the voices of 200,000 other Korean women, demand that the Japanese Government make a thoroughgoing investigation into the truth behind the issue of "comfort girls for the Japanese army" as soon as possible, and make sincere apology and due compensation, pledging itself not to commit similar crimes again.

Kang Yong Suk, 72 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Wolhyon-ri, Unjon County,
North Phyongan Province, DPRK

I was born in Samdo-myon, Raju County, South Jolla Province, Korea, on January 30, 1921.

In 1933 when I was 12, I followed my parents to make a living in Jinzhou, China.

Both of my parents died soon in China when I was still young.

Later, I got married and lived with my husband in Donxiangchao, Uanzhou city, China but in 1942 I was abducted and taken to Jinzhou by Japanese soldiers.

They confined me to a single room of the "comfort house" and forced me to serve at least 10 soldiers a day.

Very often I would become unconscious and collapse. When I came to myself, I felt unbearably sharp pains all over my body.

Whenever I refused to obey they beat and kicked me without any mercy.

It was an everyday occurrence that I had my head and arms wounded.

Unable to endure any longer I escaped from there in the autumn of 1944, and lived in a remote mountain village in northeast China until December 1945, Hearing the news that Korea was liberated, I came to Unjon County, North Phyongan Province in January 1946.

I do not know yet whether my husband I departed from in northeast China is alive or not.

Since I became sterile owing to my life as the "comfort girl for the Japanese army," I got married again, keeping my past secret, to be taken as the second wife of another man.

My second husband passed away 10 years ago. Since then I have been living alone.

The mere thought of the Japanese who deprived me of my youthful life and spoiled my family makes me grind my teeth with indignation.

I do not know how to revenge myself upon them. My grudge will not be satisfied even though all the Japanese are exterminated.

My resentment grows beyond reach when I think of my former husband who would distressed, unable to know the life and death and the whereabouts of his wife, and of my parents who died with their eyes open as they left me alone behind.

Why was I forced to lead such an unfortunate life ?

Who gave them the right to take away a lot of Korean women, not the women of their country, and to make them their sex slaves ?

I want to revenge myself upon the Japanese at any rate, even after I leave this world.

The Japanese Prime Minister himself must visit and apologize us, the victims one by one, reflect on their wrong frankly and console us.

The Japanese must pledge themselves not to repeat their crimes again. They must know their shameful past and must not commit similar crimes again.

Pak Bok Sil, 71 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Unjon county seat,
North Phyongan Province, DPRK

My father was a tenant at Kyogu-dong, Nam District, Pyongyang, and passed away when I was 15.

In order to support my family I started working from the early age of 14. I worked a baby-tender at a landlord's for 3 years and then at a rubber factory for another 3 years. Later, I happened to be employed as a waitress at Ryugyong Restaurant in Oesong District, Pyongyang.

I had to make my dress for guest by borrowing money from the owner of the restaurant. Owing to this debt I was sold off to China for 500 won when I was 19 years old.

Besides me there were several other girls who were sold for their debt. We took a train to Hulin, China, via Mudanjiang. When we arrived there we were altogether 30 to 40 girls.

Soon we were assigned to a "comfort house," each girl in one room. We were not allowed to speak to each other and had our meals separately. So we could not know what was going on with the others.

The building was as long as 9 to 10 meters and had a number of rooms on both sides of the corridor.

The room was very small in size and could hardly accommodate two persons.

The "comfort house" was exclusively for the Japanese soldiers. They would come there and buy tickets from the owner. And they would give the ticket to the girl assigned to them in their rooms before they satisfy their carnal desire.

They were sometimes allowed to select a prettier or Japanese-speaking girl and in this case they paid more money.

Every evening we were all ordered to gather in one place to submit the tickets we had taken the day. We were supplied with food and clothes according to the number of tickets we had earned, but were not given any money at all.

We served 10 to 15 soldiers from morning till night. Then we were completely knocked out and felt disgustingly painful at every joint. We felt so exhausted that we could not move even an inch.

If we tried to disobey or resist, we were severely beaten or killed. Once a week we were examined by a Japanese army doctor.

After the defeat of their country the Japanese soldiers fled leaving us behind. This was when I was 26.

I had no face to stay in my native town because of my shameful past. So I moved to Unjon County, North Phyongan Province.

Two years later I got married but could not bear a child owing to the effects of my life as a "comfort girl." Three years after the marriage my husband died. Since then I have been alone, farming. Still the aftermath makes me suffer from severe headache and indigestion.

The mere thought of my past life makes my blood run cold. Even the Word "a Japanese" makes my hair almost bristle up.

Japan has been craftily concealing all the dirty records of her past and is still pretending not to know it. I can hardly bear it. I may not die peacefully as long as all my grievances are not paid off.

That is why I am determined to make public my past. I strongly demand that the Japanese government put all criminals to trial, make a sincere apology and a proper compensation for all the Korean women who are victims.

Choe Sun Hwan, 71 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Miphyong-ri, Thongchon County,
Kangwon Province, DPRK

I was born at Ronam-dong, Seoul, Korea on September 5, 1921 and grew up there.

My family lived in a rented room of another person's house. As we lived poorly, we were pressed hard for the rent. So we had to move from one place to another often.

In 1937, when I was 16, my father died in March and then my mother in September.

As the only daughter of the family, I was left alone, with nobody to support me. I just got by, so I work out a living, doing odd jobs at a tailor's shop, a hospital and a restaurant.

One day in June, 1942, when I was working as a waitress at a restaurant at Hwanggum-dong, Seoul, a Japanese pressman, Kaseito, lured me by saying that I could earn a great deal of money if I joined a children's opera troupe which was said to be newly organized in East Manchuria, China.

Imposed upon by his honey words, I went to China with three other girls. One of them Ri Pok Hui from Kyongju and the second girl was Kim Sun Ae from Seoul. I do not remember the third girl.

The train carrying four of us left Seoul for Heilongjiang through Pyongyang, Sinuiju and Dandung, China. All the way from Dandung station we were not allowed to walk out to the platform.

The place we arrived at was Laoheishan, Heilongjiang Province. There were already some Korean girls.

The "comfort house" was outside the barracks, with a signboard of "Laoheishan Comfort House" on its front and only the Japanese soldiers were allowed in.

And it was co-managed by a Japanese and a Korean who were dressed in plain-clothes.

Each girl was allotted to the different 15 rooms which had been partitioned by wooden boards.

The room measured 2 x 3 meters and the only thing in the room was a piece of straw-mat spread on the floor.

After our arrival we were forbidden to speak Korean and given Japanese names. My Japanese name was "Ichiko."

The number of soldiers I had to serve a day was 15 to 18 on average, soldiers from 9 to 12 a.m. and from 13 to 19 p.m. and commissioned officers from 20 p.m. to dawn the next morning.

In case a girl refused to serve, the Japanese soldiers forced her to accede to their demand, unconditionally, snarling: "I have paid for you. You are mine." If she did not obey still, they would fly all at once at head, strip her naked and kick and slash her only to find an outlet of their fury.

A girl named Yoshiko was also thrashed until she fell into coma because she did not obey. That girl dragged her numb body to the toilet but could not come back from there forever. Her dead body was said to have been thrown to an unknown place. This was not the only story. Similar things happened repeatedly.

The meal we were given consisted of about 100 grams of cooked millet and an inedible subsidiary food made of watermelon peel. We got medical examination once a week and if an infected girl found she was brought to somewhere else. So within one year alone several girls disappeared and were replaced by some others.

I had been coerced to lead such a shameful life for 3 years. One evening the master ordered us. "Come out with your little belongings as you have move to another place."

When we got to the high road after 5 hours' walk, we found it unusually crowded and busy with automobiles, carts and people going. Only then I realized that the Japanese imperialists were defeated.

Taking advantage of crowdedness I succeeded in escaping from there. Afterwards, I was introduced to a certain private inn by the help of a kind Korean refugee who had offered me bed and food for more than 10 days and worked there for two years until I met my spouse in 1947.

We lived in Dongning, Heilongjiang Province, China for 3 years but, we had no child. Later in 1950 I returned home with my husband and lived at Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province.

After my husband's death in 1951 during the war I got married again in 1955 to a man who had 4 children and lived farming in Thongchon City, Kangwon Province.

I am now living alone. My second husband died in December, 1992 and the four children have already been married away.

Although I married twice I was unable to bear a child from the aftereffects of the "comfort woman's" life. From the age of 33 I suffered uterine hemorrhage continuously, often resulting in collapse.

Finally I had to undergo hysterotomy. I have kept silent about this story for I have taken it a disgrace of me to have had such a life, deceived by a cunning and cruel Japanese.

But Japan is shameless enough to deny her crime until now. I could no longer remain a silent on looker. So I brought my charge on April 29, 1993.

I often start up in bed out of resentment against the Japanese who had cruelly killed or disabled hundreds of thousands of Korean women like me.

Just to think of those sickening days, I am impelled to think that our pain-rent hearts would never be cured even with the extermination of the Japanese to the last man.

We may be well justified to demand 50 years' servant-life for our people by the sons and daughters of the Japanese.

Japan must make sincere apology and due compensation for her past crimes.

Hwang Son Ok, 69 years old, Former "Comfort Girl for the Japanese Army," Ryongnam-ri, Waudo District, Nampho City, DPRK

When I was ten years old, my father died and I lived with my mother. My elder brother was in Xinjing (Changchun) Manchuria, China, to make money.

One day my mother and I received a letter from him hoping for our arrival in that city. So we went there.

My elder brother was working at a shop run by a Japanese (named Fujimi) and I managed to have a job as a nursemaid in the house of that Japanese.

In the autumn when I was 17 years old, Japanese soldiers rushed in and forced me and 7 other girls to board a lorry and drove it somewhere for more than 2 hours.

To our surprise, we reached barracks of the Japanese army. There was a "comfort house" which I saw for the first time in my life.

The "comfort house" was a two storied building fenced with barbed wire, which was a little away from the barracks.

A soldier was always on sentry. For the first two or three days I did not accede to the demand of Japanese soldiers, who

threatened me with their guns, kicking me on the waist, the back and the legs at random.

They struck my palms with leather belts so hard that the skin of my palms got stripped off. Since then I was so frightened that I obeyed them. Japanese soldiers pounced upon me in succession day and night to satisfy their carnal desire without allowing me to have a rest.

We were supplied with two meals a day: boiled rice mixed with hulled barley and seaweed soup. They brought meals to our rooms.

We were allowed to be out only when we went to the lavatory. At that time, too, we were followed by the guard.

I can still remember the names of two "comfort girls" who were with me at that time: Yong Ja (from Kyongsang Province) and "Akiko" (from South Phyongan Province.)

In the spring the following year, I was emaciated extremely and was ill in bed at all times. I was so seriously ill that I lost my consciousness for several days.

One day Japanese soldiers came to me with an army doctor, who examined me. Then they put me on a stretcher and went to a valley to throw me away there.

When I came to myself, I crawled and crawled with all my strength before I reached a house near the valley. I knocked at the door and there appeared a man who said in Chinese which was strange to me at first.

After that, I told him the name and address of my elder brother and asked him to write to my brother. Three months later my elder brother came to take me. That is how I could get rid of the "comfort house."

After 2 months' medical treatment I recovered to some extent. In winter that year, I came to know a man named Kim Song Pom (20 years old) and married him. But soon after our marriage

my husband was called up for military service. Three days after the country's liberation he returned home.

From then on we lived together, but I could not bear a child. After a long treatment I managed to bear a son who was unfortunately killed in Sinuiju by an indiscriminate US bombing on the 8th of November, 1950. My husband was also killed in the war.

Later, I married again but, unfortunately could not bear a child. So, I adopted a 7-year-old daughter of my husband's elder brother as my daughter and lived with her. I am now supported by her.

The mere thought of what happened at the "comfort house" makes my heart full of sorrow and resentment. Awake or asleep, I only think of how I can revenge myself upon the enemy.

Ri Son Rim, 75 years old, Former "Comfort Girl
for the Japanese Army,"
Phangyo County,
Kangwon Province, DPRK

I was born in Poksu-ri, Phyongsan-County, North Hwanghae Province, Korea.

My family was so poor that at the age of 9 I became a girl whom a man brings up in his home as a future wife for his son.

After 7 years of life in that house, I came to work in the Phyongsan Silk Mill at the age of 16.

When I was 19 years old, I was sold to a restaurant in Dandung, China to become an errand-girl.

One day, a Japanese (named "Miyamoto") came to the restaurant and said to me: "If you go to Harbin, you will make much money." So I followed him to Harbin.

At that time I went there together with 5 other Korean girls. When we got on a train to Harbin, Japanese soldiers watched us closely. At Harbin Station we were taken on a lorry which ran all day long.

In the evening we arrived at a valley where barracks of Japanese army were situated.

The place was said to be the vicinity of Mt. Xiaoxinganling. In the "comfort house" where I stayed there were 12 girls and not far off there were 3 or 4 "comfort houses."

At first, I made a fuss, entreating them to let me back home, but Japanese soldiers threatened to cut my neck with their swords. One day I was so seriously ill that I refused to serve them. Then a Japanese soldier stabbed by thigh, threatening with his sword. Still now there remains the scar.

We were not allowed to be out, except the time for our taking a bath. Toilet was made at a corner of each room and it gave off a very unpleasant smell.

I had to serve 15 to 20 men a day: non-commissioned officers in the daytime and officers at night.

Meals were brought to our rooms; they consisted of 100 grams of boiled Annam rice or cooked millet and salted radish slices.

Each of us Korean girls was allotted to a room. They did not let us talk each other and say in Korean.

A guard was always keeping watch on us and it was impossible for us to run away.

They gave us a rest only once a month.

Whenever we appealed to the manager for our poor health, he did not take any measure to cure us, saying: "Withstand the pain, and you will be all right."

In March, 1944, I and 3 other girls ran away from the "comfort house" when the guard was dozing off.

We ran nearly for 40 minutes when there came the cries of the Japanese soldiers.

At that time one of us parted from us, and now I do not know what has become of her. For 20 days we wandered about in mountains, searching for food. And we managed to take train to Dandung.

In 1946, I got married to a man, but I could not bear a child. So I adopted a girl as my daughter, with whom I am living now.

My wish is to let the people over the world know and bear in mind the crimes committed by the Japanese armymen, for thousands of, nay, tens of thousands of years.